

Basic Detail Report



Janus Figure

Date

early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Dan

Medium

Wood and metal

Description

The Dan are a people from North East Liberia. The two back to back faces may represent deangle face masks, which are the dominant form of artwork that has been linked to the Dan people. These art forms are idealized portraits which display recognizable human characteristics. The exact purpose of two-headed or janus figures is unknown, but they are known as powerfully spiritual objects that may be kept in homes or carried during certain masked performances. They are reportedly fed with offerings.

Dimensions

7 × 2 × 1 1/2 in. (17.8 × 5.1 × 3.8 cm)