



Dimensions

20 × 15 × 1 1/2 in. (50.8 × 38.1 × 3.8 cm)

Splashboard (Lagim)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Massim

Medium

Wood and paint

Description

Splashboards are an important part of the canoes used for kula trade voyages. Each canoe has two splashboards, one on the bow and one on the stern, which hold up the sideboards, increase the depth of the hull and keep the ocean water from splashing the people traveling in the canoe. Additionally, these canoes are believed to be magical in that they have properties that increase the owner's personal beauty. This enables the owner to be a more effective and convincing trade partner. Traditionally, splashboards were painted red, black and white.