



Wave Splitter Finial (Munkuris)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Massim

Medium

Wood and paint

Description

Wave splitter finials are a part of the elaborate ngega kula canoes used in the kula trade ring in the Massim area of Papua New Guinea. Known colloquially as munkuris, the finials are tied atop a wave splitter, also known as prowboard or tabuya, which is located on both the prow

and the stern of the canoe. While they are usually elaborately carved and painted, this example seems to only have small traces of white paint. It also appears that the carving is not necessarily as elaborate as other examples. Perhaps this munkuris was never used or was in the process of being created.

Dimensions

4 1/2 × 2 3/4 × 1/4 in. (11.4 × 7 × 0.6 cm)