



Sago Ladle

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Massim

Medium

Wood

Description

Large ladles were used during funeral feasts as part of the sago preparation process. The ladles were typically handled by two people who would mix the food up and down in a ritualized manner that would create a sort of dance. Ladles were originally made with seed or shell attachments on the handles, but it is now quite rare to find a completely intact example. Many known examples of ladles feature openwork carving, which is not seen on this example.

Dimensions

71 1/8 × 4 13/16 × 1/2 in. (180.7 × 12.2 × 1.3 cm)