



Paddle (Hose)

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood and paint

Description

This paddle features two squatting figures known as kokorra. Literally translated, kokorra means “man,” but it is thought that these figures actually might symbolize an ancestral spirit. Although there are many variations of kokorra, they typically are represented as seated figures with legs drawn up and elbows near the knees. Their hands are either touching their chin or are holding an object, while their hair is in a bulbous style. The variations in design signal ownership by particular people or clans. Due to this variation, there is no clear answer as to what exactly kokorra actually represent or why their design is used for particular pieces. Hose paddles were made from soft woods which allowed canoe paddlers to move through waters at high speeds. The painted or ornamented side of the paddle would face the paddler. Hose were also used to display prestige and wealth during special ceremonies and occasions.

Dimensions

4 1/4 × 1 1/2 × 70 in. (10.8 × 3.8 × 177.8 cm)