



32 1/2 × 5 × 3 1/8 in. (82.6 × 12.7 × 7.9 cm)

Dance Club (Napa)

Date

early 20th Century

Medium

Wood, pigment, fiber, twine and nut or seed shells

Description

Napa clubs were used in the napa dance, one of several entertainments that took place in conjunction with a feast to celebrate the different stages of children's maturation. The dance involves two lines of men performing intricate steps while striking each other's clubs. The origin of this type of canoe-shaped club is said to come from a supernatural figure named Bamuda who taught a man how to make it. He also taught the man the songs and dances associated with it. The right to carve and dance with a napa is the exclusive right of the descendants of that man.

Dimensions