

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

The people of the tiny Tami Islands depended on trade for subsistence. Their large carved wooden feast bowls were

part of a larger system of trade that essentially extended in the area between New Guinea and New Britain, and throughout the small island groups of the region. In turn, Tami bowls became used as bride price and were highly valuable among the occupants of this trade network. Subsequently, carving these large bowls was adopted by the people of Siassi who competed with the Tami in production. The bowls are used in marriage and other ceremonies where the exchange of food plays a central role. Bowls made for trade are carved with animal designs unrelated to a specific carver or family.

Dimensions

6 3/8 × 25 1/2 × 12 1/2 in. (16.2 × 64.8 × 31.8 cm)