



## Canoe Prow

**Date**  
20th Century

**Medium**  
Wood

**Description**  
In many regions of Papua New Guinea, ornamental canoe prows are carved into the front portion of a canoe’s prow. These prows can represent spiritual beings or clan symbols and sometimes evoke the properties of the being represented. Often times, the figures represented are used as protection for the voyagers within the canoe. The style of carving featured on this piece suggests a possible link to the Sepik area. However, canoe prows from that area very often are in the shape of a crocodile head.

**Dimensions**  
8 × 37 1/2 × 3 1/2 in. (20.3 × 95.3 × 8.9 cm)