



Spear

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Medium

Wood, bone, fiber and pigment

Description

This piece's design and shape are typical of spears from Bougainville Island. Used offensively, the barbs at the top of this spear make it a highly effective weapon. The anthropomorphic carving set between the two sections of fiber bindings is a depiction of a spirit. This spirit, kagoi, is credited as the source for the spear's power. This spear is shorter than it should be as it was cut prior to being shipped from Australia to the United States. Bougainville spears are usually between 8 and 10 feet in length.

Dimensions

76 7/8 × 1 × 1 in. (195.3 × 2.5 × 2.5 cm)