



Spearhead

Date

late 19th Century

Medium

Obsidian, wood, resin, pigment, twine and shell

Description

Obsidian is naturally occurring in the Admiralty Islands, particularly on Lou and Manus Islands. It is mined and traded throughout the region. Obsidian was commonly used as a cutting tool and weapon. This spear features an obsidian blade hafted into a decorated base. The quality of such spears diminished around the start of the 20th Century due to the introduction of Western weapons and materials and the development of a Western tourist market that was particularly focused around weapons.

Dimensions

21 1/2 × 2 3/4 × 1 in. (54.6 × 7 × 2.5 cm)