

Basic Detail Report



Bag

Date

late 20th Century

Primary Maker

Dani

Medium

Possibly hornbill feather and plant fiber

Description

Jean Brenner observed this feathered net bag was worn around the back of the neck when dancing by men of the

Dani tribe. String bags decorated with hornbill feathers are worn by initiated and sexually active males who have not yet reached the level of village elder. The feathered bags are symbolically linked to hunting and harvesting rites and are strongly tied to the initiation process itself of nurturing young men into adults, paralleling the actions of male hornbill birds that also nurture their young. Similar to other cultures of the region, these bags usually contain items such as bone awls, shell scrapers, magical items, tobacco and other leaves.

Dimensions

14 1/2 × 16 × 2 3/4 in. (36.8 × 40.6 × 7 cm)