

Basic Detail Report



Necklace

Date

mid to late 20th Century

Primary Maker

Dani

Medium

Pig tooth and plant fiber

Description

Though in the late 20th century widespread missionary work has affected the spiritual beliefs of the Dani people of New Guinea's Central Highlands pigs were once a locus for religion, ceremony, trade, and practically all facets of society. It is well-evidenced that the Dani are makers of pig tooth necklaces, which are often used as trading items and even offered in exchange for marriage. There is a possibility as well, based off Jean Brenner's note (attached to this record as a text entry) that this object originates from the Asmat for whom pigs are similarly important, and who similarly have a tradition of making tooth necklaces out of pig's teeth.

Dimensions

Flexible: 5 1/2 × 3 1/4 × 1 in. (14 × 8.3 × 2.5 cm)