

Basic Detail Report



Canoe Prow

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Iatmul

Medium

Wood, shell and metal

Description

This is a wooden canoe prow carved by the Iatmul people residing in the Middle Sepik River region of Papua New Guinea. The Iatmul added carvings to their everyday use items, many of which featured animals prominent to the region and important to the culture including crocodiles and warthogs. In this particular prow, we see a combination of both animals. The canoe prow would have been used at the head of a dugout canoe to navigate the waterways of the region as well as for hunting and fishing. The abrupt end of the piece and fire-blackening are both results of the prow being repurposed for display.

Dimensions

5 1/2 × 31 5/8 × 11 1/2 in. (14 × 80.3 × 29.2 cm) In stand: 15 × 31 5/8 in. (38.1 × 80.3 cm)