

Basic Detail Report



Sculpture

Date

20th Century

Medium

Stone

Description

This is a stone amulet or sculptural object from Vanuatu. Stone is the most permanent medium used to create cultural objects within the islands of Vanuatu. Many cultural groups from Vanuatu associate stone with sacred spaces due to the animistic belief that spirits and souls inhabit stones. In some cases, sacred spaces are declared as such due to interesting rock formations. In other cases, sacred spaces feature various stones that were placed there by people. Stone amulets whose purpose has not

been identified are also found on Vanuatu, noted to be carved in the form of faces. It is possible they are carved in likeness to an ancestor and draw upon the deceased's skills or prosperity. Most stone carvings, likely this stone as well, are made from soft tufa, a type of limestone.

Dimensions

13 1/8 × 9 × 7 in. (33.3 × 22.9 × 17.8 cm)