

Basic Detail Report



Bowl (Apia Nie)

Date
early to mid 20th Century

Primary Maker
Wuvuluvian

Medium
Wood

Description
After being grated, the fibrous meat of a coconut was wrung out over these bowls to collect their milk. As is characteristic of Micronesian art, this bowl—carved from a single piece of wood—features a minimalist aesthetic. They were used almost daily by most households on Wuvulu. Island Oceania is divided into Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, but trade and migration have created a great deal of commonality among these cultural and geographic subregions. Despite being only 100 miles away from the coast of New Guinea, the center of Melanesian culture, most individuals on the island of Wuvulu are of Micronesian descent. Some of the earliest theories about the island’s connection to Micronesia were surmised from the use of similar shark tooth weapons to those used in the Gilbert Islands. To this day the unique functional and decorative objects produced on Wuvulu show influences from both Melanesia and Micronesia.

Dimensions
4 1/2 × 22 7/8 × 13 3/4 in. (11.4 × 58.1 × 34.9 cm)