



Staff (Simbo)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Makonde

Medium

Wood and beads

Description

These staffs were likely made by the Makonde of Northern Mozambique and Southern Tanzania. The wood carvings of the Makonde are widely recognized for their quality and craftsmanship. Makonde staffs are generally indicators of one's prestige social status. These two objects appear to be created in a style commonly used in dance festivals or by diviners. In Makonde culture, decorative staffs are called simbo and the plural form is disimbo. Whatever their use, the carving of these staffs was commissioned by Makonde men.

Dimensions

23 1/8 × 1 1/2 × 2 5/8 in. (58.7 × 3.8 × 6.7 cm)