



Staff (Yo Domolo)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Dogon

Medium

Wood

Description

This is a thief's staff, or yo domolo, made by the Dogon culture of Mali in the 20th Century. These staffs were used by ritual thieves in funerals and less often in other ceremonies. Yo domolo were the hallmark of those who were part of the society of yona: ritual thieves. The society's main activity is the theft of domestic animals from members of their clan so that they can be ritually sacrificed and eaten at funerals. Every Dogon clan has a ritual thief for this purpose.

Dimensions

20 1/2 × 11 × 1 1/2 in. (52.1 × 27.9 × 3.8 cm)