



Headdress (Ciwarakun)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Bamana

Medium

Wood

Description

This headdress from the Bamana culture of Western Mali features Ciwara, the antelope that taught the Bamana agriculture. Male and female forms of this headdress are worn at end-of-year festivals by the most successful farmers of the season. Together, the binary figures represent the continuation of life, independently each represents the respective symbols of male and female in Bamana culture, such as the sun and the earth. Ciwarakun headdresses can be further distinguished by having vertical, horizontal, or highly abstracted aesthetics.

Dimensions

18 3/8 × 6 7/8 × 2 1/2 in. (46.7 × 17.5 × 6.4 cm)