



Female Figure

Date

mid 20th Century

Primary Maker

Jimmy Mtoched

Medium

Wood and shell

Description

This is a wooden statue of a standing female figure carved by a carving apprentice named Jimmy Mtoched in 1969. Palauan standing figures are made in a variety of styles and may be carved from heavy dark wood such as teak or from lighter wood such as breadfruit. Standing figures, such as the one presented here, would have been carved as tokens for the deceased or used as ancestral shrines for the spirit of the dead. Although these types of statues are no longer significant as ancestral shrines, they have gained monetary value to carvers as items of barter.

According to the donor, Jimmy Mtoched was a student of a well-known carver named John Paul. Mtoched often visited the donor bringing carved creations designed or started by Paul. Eventually Mtoched started to sell his own carved work and served as a consistent wood carving source for the donor.

Dimensions

19 5/8 × 5 × 4 1/4 in. (49.8 × 12.7 × 10.8 cm)