

Basic Detail Report



Tray

Date

mid 20th Century

Medium

Wood, shell and plant fiber

Description

This is a wooden tray collected in 1954 in the state of Airai on Babeldaob Island in country of Palau. In the Palauan vernacular, a dachelbai is a man who is skilled in creating things by hand, such as fashioning trays out of wood. Traditionally, freshly cooked fish would be served on these long plates and garnished with an assortment of other local delicacies; such as taro slices or boiled squash. Cooked fish is prepared by wrapping freshly caught fish in coconut fronds and smoking them over the household’s hearth fire. It was considered forbidden to consume raw fish or specific fish referred as totem fish.

Dimensions

2 1/4 × 9 7/8 × 18 1/4 in. (5.7 × 25.1 × 46.4 cm)