

Basic Detail Report



Wood

Description

This is a wooden tray collected on the island country of Palau in 1969. 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. According to the donor, this tray was crafted by a Palauan woodcarver named Chuerbalau.

Dimensions

1 3/4 × 8 × 14 in. (4.4 × 20.3 × 35.6 cm)

Tray

Date

mid 20th Century

Primary Maker

Chuerbalau

Medium