



Headrest

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Senufo

Medium

Wood, burlap, leather and metal

Description

This is a 20th Century Senufo headrest from Burkina Faso Côte d'Ivoire or Mali. Headrests are commonly used throughout Africa to help protect intricate coiffures while resting, though in many cases they carry with them a certain degree of spiritual meaning or prestige. This headrest is a stylized depiction of a horse, which were first introduced to the region by Muslim traders and became quintessential to the sculptural art of the Senufo.

Dimensions

8 1/4 × 31 × 2 1/4 in. (21 × 78.7 × 5.7 cm)