

Basic Detail Report



Headrest (Amba Ragat)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Murik

Medium

Wood

Description

This object is a wooden headrest made by the Murik or Iatmul cultures residing in Papua New Guinea's East Sepik Province. Amba ragat translates to “head stool” and they were used by the Iatmul to rest their head or neck while sleeping. Iatmul headrests traditionally feature a plain central cradle for the head. On both sides of the cradle are carved figures that represent animals or ancestral beings. In the Sepik River region, the use of headrests is quite common. Every headrest is unique in design, but the thick central column support of this headrest makes it an outlier even among Sepik headrests.

Dimensions

4 3/8 × 13 × 2 3/4 in. (11.1 × 33 × 7 cm)