

Basic Detail Report



Drum

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Asmat

Medium

Wood, lizard skin, and plant fiber

Description

This hand drum with lizard skin drum head was made by an individual from the Asmat people residing in Indonesia's West Papua Province. Asmat drums are carved into hourglass shapes from single piece of softwood and then hollowed out from the inside using a burning method. The length and ornamentation of the drum are dependent on the cultural traits of the craftsman. Drums are an integral part of everyday life for the Asmat people, as they are supplement to nearly all cultural songs, both public and private. The Asmat believe

the drums contain a great deal of spiritual energy and therefore they are an essential component to all ceremonies and rituals.

Dimensions

32 1/8 × 10 × 8 in. (81.6 × 25.4 × 20.3 cm)