

Basic Detail Report



Mortar

Date

early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Ifugao

Medium

Wood

Description

This object is a wooden mortar from the northern island of Luzon in the Philippines. Mortars are common to cultures across the world due to their efficiency at pulverizing foods, pigments, and more. The multitude of minimally carved human faces carved on this mortar are a common feature in the Philippine highlands. The various cultures in the area believe in a complex and extensive world of spirits who can inhabit natural objects or phenomena and affect the outcomes of everyday activities such as food production. As such, anthropomorphic designs representing supernatural beings can be found adorning items made for ritual use as well as everyday objects such as this one.

Dimensions

13 × 15 1/2 × 13 in. (33 × 39.4 × 33 cm)