Standing Female Figure

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Bamum people

Medium

wood and stain

Description

Because of its size, this figure was probably a charm of some sort. It appears to have been handled extensively and is well worn. The subject is a woman with large breasts supporting a pot on her head, a type of "woman as nurturer and caregiver" motif that is widespread in Africa. In the Grassfields, this image is usually seen on royal art and is a reference to the supportive role played by royal wives. The bracelet on one arm seems to confirm the identity of this little figure as a royal wife.

Dimensions

Overall: 4 5/8 x 1 1/8 x 7/8 in. (11.7 x 2.9 x 2.2 cm)