

# Basic Detail Report

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## Lion

### Date

20th century

### Primary Maker

Fon people

### Medium

wood and ivory

### Description

In Africa, lions, in contrast to leopards, tend to have quite specific reference to individual leadership in a worldly rather than spiritual sense. Among the Fon, it is a symbol of Gele, a nineteenth century king of the Empire of Dahomey. Not surprisingly, Africans found it easy to relate to the colonial British use of the lion as a symbol of royal authority. African images of lions often have a European look about them.

### Dimensions

Overall: 4 x 2 1/4 x 16 5/8 in. (10.2 x 5.7 x 42.2 cm)