



Face Mask

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Dan people

Medium

wood, fur, feathers and textile

Description

Ambiguous or anomalous creatures are the norm in much African art. In particular, qualities of opposing realms such as earth and sky (fur and feathers) are brought together in one being such as this mask, probably representing a spirit that appeared to someone in a dream and asked to have a mask created for itself so that it could dance with humans. Combinations of human and animal characteristics are also common.

Dimensions

Overall: 16 x 6 1/8 x 7 1/2 in. (40.6 x 15.6 x 19.1 cm)