



Pig Killer Club

Date

late 19th to early 20th century

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

wood and pigment

Description

Vanuatu social life is dominated by grade ceremonies featuring pig sacrifices and the payment of numerous specially raised pigs by the man who aspires to a higher level of membership in one of the local grade Societies. A man's social prestige in life as well as his position and importance as an ancestor depends on the grade he reaches in a life long sequence of ceremonies. Pigs represent wealth in traditional Vanuatu society, and especially valued are those whose curved lower tusks have been allowed to grow unimpeded in two or even three complete revolutions. The pigs are confined in pens and hand-fed a special diet.

Dimensions

Overall: 32 3/8 x 8 1/8 x 2 3/4 in. (82.2 x 20.6 x 7 cm)