



Figure

Date

19th century or earlier

Primary Maker

Dogon people

Medium

stone

Description

The Dogon recognize several categories of spirits. Most important are the spirits associated with the bush - the area of wilderness outside the boundaries of the village - where everything is mysterious, animal spirits roam, and rocks can move. The Dogon also associate stones with the bones of the nummo (primordial ancestors) and their human descendants who are the ancestors of today's people. Priests can be aided by either bush spirits or by the spirits of ancestors.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 1/2 x 1 x 1 3/8 in. (6.4 x 2.5 x 3.5 cm)