

Basic Detail Report



Encased Horse Head

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Igbo people

Medium

horse skull, plant fiber and encrustation

Description

Highly titled men who are family heads build their own house, called an obu, which they are entitled to line with carved wooden panels and to hang basketry with encased skulls of animals (cattle and horses) sacrificed to be consumed at family feasts. The obu serves as a kind of audience hall for the family head. The basketry covered skulls (or just bare skulls) are hung in rows from the ceiling and serve as a kind of backdrop and authentication that he has performed his duties.

Dimensions

Overall: 12 1/4 x 22 x 9 1/2 in. (31.1 x 55.9 x 24.1 cm)