



Face Mask

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Dan people

Medium

wood, stain, iron, pigment and encrustation

Description

While this mask has no obvious sacrificial residue, it does have a nail in the top of the forehead, often a sign of spiritual activation. It has had other materials added as well, perhaps on or in the mouth and certainly around the eyes. Metal is often placed around the eyes to suggest a glaring, confrontational quality. The metal also served to distract an observer from noticing too much the human eyes that might be visible in the sometimes large, round eyeholes as seen here.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 x 5 7/8 x 3 1/4 in. (22.9 x 14.9 x 8.3 cm)