



Face Mask (Okoroshi)

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Igbo people

Medium

wood and paint

Description

The Okoroshi masquerade features two main types of masks: dark, grotesque male masks and fine-featured, white-faced female masks such as this one. Okoroshi is danced to honor the water spirit(s), Owu, during the rainy season when these spirits descend to the earth for a time to associate with humans. Each masked spirit has its own name and personality, conforming to one of the two types mentioned above.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 3/8 x 4 1/8 x 3 1/8 in. (23.8 x 10.5 x 7.9 cm)