



Mai Mask

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Iatmul

Medium

Wood, clay, cowrie and nassa shells, hair, boar tusks, pigment

Description

Traditional elongated facial mask with long nose pierced at septum with boar tusk extending to chin where bird protrudes down. Face surrounded by shells embedded in clay. Shells on nose extension. Human hair at top of head beneath plaited raffia loop for hanging. Small inset shells for eyes underneath carved protruding brows. Dark stain. Painted traditional designs.

Dimensions

27 x 6 1/2 x 4 3/4 in. (68.6 x 16.5 x 12.1 cm)