



Shrine Figure (Ikenga)

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Igbo people

Medium

wood, paint and plant fiber cord

Description

Small ikenga from the southwestern Igbo region are called okoba. They are personal shrines that are believed to facilitate their owner's success in almost any undertaking. The wing-like superstructure surmounting the head of this figure is a distinctive exaggeration of the horns, which are the most consistent identifying element of an ikenga, representing male assertiveness and aggression.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 1/2 x 4 3/8 x 3 5/8 in. (24.1 x 11.1 x 9.2 cm)