



Helmet Mask (Mammy Wata)

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Igbo people

Medium

wood, paint, plant fiber, iron and hair

Description

Mammy Wata is a new water spirit inspired by chromolithographs of a Hindu female deity seen in the shops of Indian merchants in the cities. The largely urban cult helps its devotees cope with the displacement and stress of Europeanization and city life.

Dimensions

Overall: 30 1/2 x 12 3/8 x 12 1/4 in. (77.5 x 31.4 x 31.1 cm)