



Shrine Figure (Ikenga)

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Igbo people

Medium

wood

Description

An ikenga is an embodiment of a man's fate (chi), his character, his achievements, and his link with his ancestors. This example is the most basic form that an ikenga can have: a cylindrical base topped by horns. A simple head emerges from the base between the horns, and the base is embellished with chip-carving, a pervasive form of surface decoration on Igbo stools and wooden house panels, both of which are reflections of status in an Igbo community.

Dimensions

Overall: 10 1/2 x 5 3/4 x 5 7/8 in. (26.7 x 14.6 x 14.9 cm)