



Standing Figure

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Bamileke people

Medium

wood, stain, cloth and feather

Description

Smaller figures from the Cameroon Grassfields such as this one are used primarily for magical purposes, for protection against witchcraft, and for divination and healing. Magical figures often have cavities for the insertion of medicines or activating substances; this one has a small, square compartment covered by a wooden door on its lower back. This figure even appears to be wearing some kind of garment on its upper body. The style of this figure shares much in common with the styles of various Bamileke Chiefdoms of the southern part of the Grassfields, but also has elements that suggest the more abstract styles of the northwestern Grassfields and the border region with the upper Cross River.

Dimensions

Overall: 13 3/8 x 4 3/4 x 4 1/2 in. (34 x 12.1 x 11.4 cm)