

Basic Detail Report



Mermaid

Date

c. 1850

Primary Maker

Unidentified Artist

Medium

Painted wood

Description

Mermaids were popular subjects for signs, weathervanes, and carvings in coastal towns and cities. This sculpture, found in a waterfront shop in Baltimore, was possibly meant to be a garden fountain, although its condition suggests little actual use. It may have been a model for a fountain to be made of more durable material. The quality and style of carving strongly suggest the work of a professional woodcarver, possibly a shipcarver. Ornamental.

Dimensions

Overall: 15 1/2 × 6 3/4 × 20 in. (39.4 × 17.1 × 50.8 cm)