



Amulet

Date

c. 1730-1830

Primary Maker

Tlingit

Medium

Sperm whale tooth

Description

Shamans wore amulets as pendants around their neck, but when attending to the ill, the shaman held it against the patient’s afflicted area to remove the malevolence that had caused the illness. To undertake such spiritual activities as healing, shamans journeyed to the land of the dead. On this amulet a shaman and other figures travel through time and space across the border between life and death by means of a head canoe.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 × 5 3/4 in. (5.1 × 14.6 cm)