



## Model Head Canoe

**Date**

c. 1830-1860

**Primary Maker**

Possibly Haida

**Medium**

Yellow cedar, paint, metal

**Description**

This model represents the head canoe, the most prestigious canoe of the 12 different Northwest Coast types that were made in the 19th century. The Haida were so renown for their mastery in the carving of head canoes that Tlingit chiefs sought out their work exclusively. The visually defining element of the head canoe is its broad, vertical fin at the bow and slanting end of the stern. The bow and stern are painted with stylized imagery that relates to mythological beings – a head and claws appear at the bow on this model canoe. Model canoes were made for young boys to learn watercraft as well as those commissioned by non-Natives.

**Dimensions**

Overall: 10 1/2 × 11 × 68 in. (26.7 × 27.9 × 172.7 cm)