



Kachina Doll

Date

c. 1900-1920

Primary Maker

Hopi

Medium

Cottonwood root, paint, horsehair, string, feathers, nail

Description

There are three manifestations of kachinas. Most important are the spirit beings who reside in and around the Hopi villages from late December until early July when they return to the spirit world. Another occurs when their spiritual essence is transformed into human dancers who dress as kachinas at major ceremonies. The third is the carved wooden kachina figure (tithu) that is given to a young girl as part of her instruction on Hopi spirituality. There are approximately 300-500 different kachinas, often associated with life-giving spirits such as rain, animals, plants, and ancestors. Each kachina's identity is conveyed through clothing and adornment.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 1/4 × 5 1/2 in. (18.4 × 14 cm)