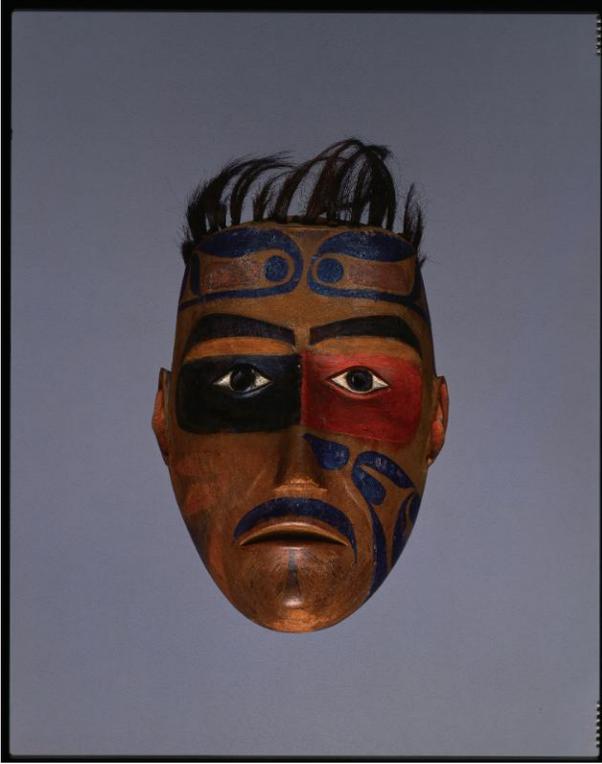


Basic Detail Report



Mask

Date

1820-1870

Primary Maker

Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka)

Medium

Wood (alder), human hair, paint (Reckett's Blue)

Description

The symbolism of the painted designs on this mask is not known, but the black and red painting around the eyes likely relates to the level of the dancer's initiation in certain traditions. The mask has a bite plug attached inside at the upper lip. This enabled the dancer to bite down on plug, allowing him to quickly don and doff the mask from beneath his robe and change from his own

identity to that of the mask and back again.

Dimensions

Overall (Includes hair): 12 × 8 × 5 1/4 in. (30.5 × 20.3 × 13.3 cm)