



Headdress Frontlet

Date

1870-1900

Primary Maker

Heiltsuk (Bella Bella)

Medium

Four pieces of alder, abalone, red, black, green pigments (later Rickett's blue)

Description

The bear and bear-human imagery on this Heiltsuk (Bella Bella) frontlet is associated with both Haida and Tlingit mythology that describes the union between bears and humans and their bear-human offspring. The larger carving represents a bear with its blunt snout and raised paws, while the small figure above it has a human face with short rounded bearlike ears.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 3/4 × 6 1/2 × 4 in. (19.7 × 16.5 × 10.2 cm)