

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

c. 1800

Primary Maker

Coast Tsimshian

Medium

Alder or birch, pigment

Description

The fully modeled head and tail on this bowl convey the graceful image of a swimming beaver. Often referred to

as oil or grease dishes, these bowls held seal or candlefish oil, a prized condiment. This bowl was made from alder, a pale, white maple-like wood when freshly felled. Initial saturations of the wood with seal or candlefish oil begin to oxidize and warm the surface color to a golden honey tone. It takes decades of use to change the color to a deep black.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 1/4 × 4 1/4 × 7 1/4 in. (5.7 × 10.8 × 18.4 cm)