

Basic Detail Report



Soul Catcher

Date
1840-1870

Primary Maker
Tsimshian

Medium

Bone (Grizzly bear humerus?)

Description

Shamans used soul catchers such as this one to recapture a patient’s lost soul, returning him or her to spiritual wellbeing. Shamanic healing focused on both the spiritual cause of illness such as witchcraft, and the physical body being out of balance. The face in the middle of the soul catcher may symbolize the captured spirit, safely held within and protected by the fierce creatures at the ends.

Dimensions

Overall: 7/8 × 6 3/8 in. (2.2 × 16.2 cm)