



Dagger

Date

c. 1880

Primary Maker

Tlingit

Medium

Horn, copper, abalone shell, leather strips

Description

Northwest Coast artists steamed, boiled, and bent sheep horn to create graceful objects such as bowls, spoons, and ladles. Here the sheep horn hilt is a three-dimensional representation of a wolf's head, of which there are only several known. These daggers were likely made for sale and not for combat as the blades are copper. Thin pieces of copper, whose use is associated with wealth, subtly

emphasize the mouth, nostrils, eyebrows, and the back of the head. The iridescent abalone inlay, a valued material traded from California, has a reflective quality ideal for highlighting the eyes.

Dimensions

Overall: 15 × 1 × 3 in. (38.1 × 2.5 × 7.6 cm)