

Basic Detail Report



Amulet

Date
1860-1880

Primary Maker
Tlingit

Medium
Whale's tooth, abalone

Description

Spirits of animals and humans were believed to be controlled by shamans who would use those powers to cure the sick, forecast the future and influence events. Shamans used amulets such as this one during healing ceremonies to touch the afflicted part of a patient’s body to restore it to health. The amulet depicts a land otter, the most powerful Tlingit shaman spirit.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 1/4 × 3/4 × 4 1/4 in. (3.2 × 1.9 × 10.8 cm)