



Harpoon Counterweight

Date

800-1000

Primary Maker

Punuk (Siberian Yup'ik)

Medium

Ivory, pigment

Description

This counterweight was part of an ensemble of equipment that fit together into a complete toggling harpoon and shaft – a vital tool for hunting marine mammals. The surface of the counterweight is incised with small circles and lines that intersect in a symmetrical, harmonious manner. The objects beautiful aesthetic power honored and placated the animal spirit through its beauty.

Dimensions

Overall: 3 × 3 3/4 × 3/4 in. (7.6 × 9.5 × 1.9 cm)