



Dance Fans

Date
c. 1870

Primary Maker
Central Yup'ik

Medium
Wood, swan feathers, duck tail feathers, snowy owl feathers, white, green and red pigment, pebbles

Description

Dance fans are usually used in dances as pairs. These dance fans are rattles. The face on each fan lifts off to reveal a hollowed area. A small round beach pebble inside each fan’s cavity gives them a voice when rattled. The numeric ordering of three duck tail feathers and four swan feathers have cosmological symbolism.

Dimensions

Overall (a): 13 1/4 × 14 × 1 3/8 in. (33.7 × 35.6 × 3.5 cm) Overall (b): 19 1/2 × 19 × 1 3/8 in. (49.5 × 48.3 × 3.5 cm)