# **Basic Detail Report**



# **Model Totem Pole**

## **Date**

1860-1880

## **Primary Maker**

Simeon Stilthda

## Medium

Wood (yew)

# Description

This richly polished totem pole was likely a model for a full-sized memorial pole. At the top is a human figure, possibly a chief, in a shamanic trance or deceased, so implied by his closed eyes and the formal position of the hands upon his stomach. His feet rest upon the head of a sea lion-like figure. It may represent the shaman's

guardian spirit, via which he travels the unseen worlds. Positioned upside down, another human-like face smiles broadly, possibly representing the spirit of the deceased or entranced. At the bottom, a bear sits upright on its haunches. His human hands hold a most unusual creature against its chest. This figure has the hind legs of a frog, but the head and narrow snout suggests a small rodent such as a shrew.

## **Dimensions**

Overall: 25  $1/4 \times 43/8 \times 3$  in.  $(64.1 \times 11.1 \times 7.6 \text{ cm})$