Basic Detail Report

Dagger Hilt

Date
1800-1840

Primary Maker
Haida

Medium
Walrus ivory, iron band, later iron screw

Description
This exquisitely modeled dagger hilt with its delicate tiny figures has the same visual impact as full-size totem poles. It depicts a bear holding a frog in its mouth and forefeet, with a human face and arms spilling out between and through the bear’s ears. The blending of two figures in the same space symbolizes spiritual interrelationship, a hallmark of Northwest Coast art.

Dimensions
Overall: 4 × 1 × 1 1/2 in. (10.2 × 2.5 × 3.8 cm)