

Basic Detail Report



Rattle

Date

1870-1890

Primary Maker

Tlingit - Tribe of the Hootzahta (Brown Bear)

Medium

Alder, black, red, blue-green paint, abalone, native tanned hide, pebbles or seeds

Description

Oystercatcher rattles appear to have been exclusively used by Tlingit shamans. They depict the black oystercatcher, a fairly common shorebird on the outer, seaward reaches of the Northwest Coast shoreline. The complex dramas taking place on the backs of the rattles

almost always concern shamanism and witchcraft.

Dimensions

Overall: 3 3/4 × 6 1/4 × 15 1/2 in. (9.5 × 15.9 × 39.4 cm)