

Basic Detail Report



Mask

Date

1820-1850

Primary Maker

Tlingit

Medium

Wood (alder), blue, black, red paint, native tanned hide straps

Description

A great variety of spirit-beings are depicted in the masks of Tlingit shamans, each one with a special faculty that the shaman could call upon in his or her work (female shamans among the Tlingit were rare but not unknown). The masks were worn briefly during healing rituals in which a particular spirit was invoked, in order to make visible the entity with whom the shaman was in contact. This image appears to represent an eagle spirit, though only its former owner would have known for sure what was intended by the sculpture.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 1/2 × 7 1/8 × 4 in. (24.1 × 18.1 × 10.2 cm)