

Basic Detail Report



Mask

Date

1830-1850

Primary Maker

Tlingit

Medium

Wood (alder), black, red, native blue paint.

Description

This Tlingit mask represents a woman wearing a labret, or lip ornament, in her lower lip. When a girl reached puberty her lower lip was pierced and a labret was inserted. The large size of this labret is a sign of her high rank.

Decorative changes to the face and body had deep spiritual associations relating to identity, status and age and were part of a larger ritual expression relating to dress and public presentation. Tattooing and piercing were eternal statements of belief and identity.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 × 6 5/8 × 4 in. (22.9 × 16.8 × 10.2 cm)