

Basic Detail Report



Mask

Date

1800-1840

Primary Maker

Tlingit

Medium

Alder, copper, red turban snail opercula, bear skin, leather, paint

Description

This magnificently malevolent mask directly manifests a powerful spirit being that helped a shaman mediate between the worlds of matter and spirit. It is an octopus, identified by the sucker disks on its cheeks and its

peaked, beak-like mouth. Like shamans, the octopus can transform itself – it squeezes its often enormous body into extremely narrow crevices, and to elude danger, it releases ink and changes the color and texture of its skin.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 1/2 × 7 × 3 1/2 in. (24.1 × 17.8 × 8.9 cm) Overall (Mount Dimensions): 7 × 5 × 3 in. (17.8 × 12.7 × 7.6 cm)