

Basic Detail Report



Dance Fans

Date

c. 1870

Primary Maker

Central Yup'ik

Medium

Wood, duck tail feathers, snowy owl feathers, caribou fur, green and white pigments, pebble

Description

Dance fans are usually danced as a pair. These two sets of dance fans also acted as rattles. The face on each fan lifts off to reveal a hollowed area. McIntyre placed small round beach pebbles inside the cavity to give the fans a voice. Both sets of dance fans have dark duck feathers to contrast with white elements - swan feather or caribou fur. This creates a contrast of dark and light elements, a reference of the fundamental duality of the universe. The numeric ordering of three duck tail feathers and four swan feathers (or sprays of caribou fur) have cosmological symbolism.

Dimensions

Overall (A): 13 3/4 × 21 × 1 1/2 in. (34.9 × 53.3 × 3.8 cm) Overall (B): 14 × 20 × 1 1/2 in. (35.6 × 50.8 × 3.8 cm)