Basic Detail Report



Spindle Whorl

Date
c. 1840-1860

Primary Maker
Central Coast Salish

Medium
Wood (possibly maple), pigment

Description
Central Coast Salish weavers of mountain goat and dog wool robes traditionally spun and plied their yarns with the use of a spindle and whorl. A thin wooden shaft approximately 2½ feet in length served as the spindle, on which was mounted near the middle a wooden disk, or whorl. The carved spindle whorl functioned somewhat like a flywheel, increasing the inertia of the turning spindle. Typical of Central Coast Salish design style, the two figures, which may represent serpents or mythical sea beings, are set off from the surface of the whorl by shallow relief carving.

Dimensions
Overall: 7 × 3/4 × 7 1/4 in. (17.8 × 1.9 × 18.4 cm)