



Female Figure [Ere Ibeji]

Date

ca. 1960

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Yoruba people

Medium

wood, pigment, glass beads and plant fiber

Description

In Yorubaland, where the cult of twins is very common, twin (ibeji) figures are carved whenever a twin dies. The “doll” is then carried and cared for as though it were the living child. Cleaned, oiled, and dressed in clothes and beads every few days, it also occupies a special place at the family altar. The intention is to show that the dead child, whose soul is thought to live on in the ibeji figure, is not forgotten.

Dimensions

11 1/2 x 3 3/8 x 3 1/2"