



Shrine Figure (Ikenga)

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Igbo people

Medium

wood and paint

Description

This object resembles a simple ikenga, a man's personal shrine. It has the requisite cylindrical form but no horns, at least not in the usual sense. Horns are necessary for a true ikenga as testimony to the owner's ambition and assertiveness. The handle-like element on the top could be a highly stylized horn element. The upside-down U shape that encircles the base could also be horns, as

could the hanging element that separates each of the U's. There is a tiny head rising out of the upper surface of the stool form. The overall configuration has a lot in common with the stools that titles elders are allowed to use as signs of their rank.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 x 6 1/2 x 6 3/4 in. (22.9 x 16.5 x 17.1 cm)