

Mother and Child Presentation Figure

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Bamileke people

Medium

wood and stain

Description

Large female figures carrying or nursing an infant are considered to be royal memorial figures perhaps representing a specific wife or mother of a Fon (chief or king). Since this figure is neither seated nor wearing any royal insignia, it may be a more generic presentation of the theme of fertility, nurturing, and life force that is embodied in the royal women, and in women in general. In formal terms, this figure is a rather stiff version of the emotionally expressive Bamileke style. It shows little weathering. The uniformly black surface is typical of the way fairly recent figures carved for the art market are finished.

Dimensions

Overall: 58 1/4 x 12 5/8 x 11 5/8 in. (148 x 32.1 x 29.5 cm)



