



Horizontal Mask (Okobuzogui)

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Loma people

Medium

wood and accumulative materials

Description

This fine, old mask with alligator jaws and ram's horns appears to have been cleansed of much of its offering material, although there are still traces of encrustation visible. It has been identified as Okobuzogui, nephew of Afwi, the Great Spirit of the Forest. It is "worn" by the wearer gripping the mask with his hands and holding it horizontally over his head. Layers of animal skins hanging from the mask conceal the upper part of the wearer's body, leaving his lower legs and feet bare. It is probably the most important of all Loma (Toma) masks as it related to communal ancestors.

Dimensions

Overall: 23 5/8 x 9 3/8 x 9 1/4 in. (60 x 23.8 x 23.5 cm)