



House of the Head Shrine (Ile-Ori)

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Yoruba people

Medium

wood, metal, leather, textile, mirror and cowrie shells

Description

A person's head rules his fate and is honored with a crown-like shrine studded with cowrie shells (a sign of wealth), protective mirrors, worked leather reminiscent of mounted Islamic warriors, and surmounted by a bird symbolizing the transcendent power of kings and diviners.

Dimensions

Overall: 25 1/2 x 12 3/8 x 13 1/2 in. (64.8 x 31.4 x 34.3 cm)