



## Miniature head

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**On display**

**Title/Description:** Miniature head

**Born:** 1800 - 1899

**Object Type:** Figure, Head

**Materials:** Walrus ivory

**Measurements:** h. 29 x w. 13 x d. 15 mm

**Accession Number:** 117

**Historic Period:** 19th century

**Production Place:** Alaska, North America, The Americas

**Credit Line:** Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

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This miniature carving is an example of the visual punning of which Alaskan Inuit artists were particularly fond (see Nelson, 1899: 61; Fitzhugh and Kaplan, 1982: fig. 56). One view reveals a female head with hair parted and typical chin tattoos; turned over, the neck becomes the shoulders and head of a wolf-like creature. The neck is grooved for binding. Nelson collected a related example of a head/bird from Cape Vancouver (Collins et al., 1973: fig. 94).

Steven Hooper, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) p. 255.

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## **Provenance**

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from K. J. Hewett in 1972.

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.

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