



Cup

On display

Title/Description: Cup

Born: 1850 - 1950

Materials: Wood

Measurements: h. 98 x w. 96 x d. 68 mm

Accession Number: 258

Historic Period: 19th Century - Late, 20th Century - Early

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

This is a wooden copy of a small cup made from a pumpkin-shaped gourd, halved vertically. The cavity within is not divided and in use the drinker would hold one end of the cup in the hollow of his palm, with index finger and thumb in the middle recesses.

On both sides is a face representing a *hemba nkisi*, a northern Suku charm and initiation mask, intended to ward off unauthorised touching of the cup.

Margret Carey, 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. 182.

Exhibitions

'Power Plants: Intoxicants, Stimulants and Narcotics', Sainsbury Centre, UK, 14/09/2024-02/02/2025

Provenance

Gift from K. J. Hewett to Robert and Lisa Sainsbury in 1972.

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