

C.O.W. Accession No. 2009.5
Object/Work pottery food vessel
Creation Date 20th century

Artist Nationality/Ethnicity Oceanic/Papua New Guinea
(Sawos people)

Artist

Artist's Dates 20th century

Title/Name

Classification
ceramics

Physical Description

Open, conical clay eating bowl with deep carving on exterior;
interior has carbon marks from pit firing



State

Edition

Exhibition Loan History

--*Museum Studies: Recent Acquisitions +1*, March 27-May 14,
2012, College of Wooster Art Museum (Burton D. Morgan
Gallery)

--*The David and Karina Rilling Collection of African and Oceanic
Art*, March 23-April 18, 2010, The College of Wooster Art

Related Textual Reference

Food bowls, Sawos culture
Sepik River Region, Papua New Guinea, 20th century
Earthenware, colored slip
The College of Wooster Art Museum 2009.2-2009.6
Gift of Dr. David C. and Karina Rilling
The Sawos people inhabit the mid-Sepik River area in
Papua New Guinea. These conical Sawos eating bowls,
with their intricately carved patterns, are produced by
the coil and scrape method. Starting at the point on the
bottom, coils are added and then scraped. Although
women make the vessels, they are decorated by men,
who use a chip-carving method at the leather-hard stage
to create the bold designs and then paint in certain
areas with colored slips.
These are not ritual bowls. Rather they are used
every day, and the names for the designs refer to
objects in nature—animals or parts of plants, fish,

Materials low-fire earthenware and colored slip

Measurements 5 3/8 h x 12 5/8 diam. inches

Inscriptions/Marks

Current Location Ebert

Shelf/Drawer No. D3

Date Received

Donor Dr. David C. and Karina Rilling

reptiles, birds and mammals, such as the pig—none of which are actually represented in a naturalistic manner. The designs follow the form and some have the appearance of a “spirit face” repeated two-to-four times on the surface.

Called kamana, or eating bowl, these bowls are stored bottom-side up so the motifs, which have changed little since these vessels were first collected in the midtwentieth century, are visible.

C.O.W. Accession No. 2009.3
Object/Work pottery food vessel
Creation Date 20th century

Artist Nationality/Ethnicity Oceanic/Papua New Guinea
(Sawos people)

Artist

Artist's Dates 20th century

Title/Name

Classification
ceramics

Physical Description

Open, conical clay eating bowl with deep carving on exterior;
interior has carbon marks from pit firing



State

Edition

Exhibition Loan History

--*Museum Studies: Recent Acquisitions +1*, March 27-May 14,
2012, College of Wooster Art Museum (Burton D. Morgan
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--*The David and Karina Rilling Collection of African and Oceanic
Art*, March 23-April 18, 2010, The College of Wooster Art

Related Textual Reference

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Earthenware, colored slip
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to create the bold designs and then paint in certain
areas with colored slips.
These are not ritual bowls. Rather they are used
every day, and the names for the designs refer to
objects in nature—animals or parts of plants, fish,

Materials low-fire earthenware and colored slip

Measurements 4 3/4 h x 12 1/2 diam. inches

Inscriptions/Marks

Current Location Ebert

Shelf/Drawer No. D3

Date Received

Donor Dr. David C. and Karina Rilling

reptiles, birds and mammals, such as the pig—none of which are actually represented in a naturalistic manner. The designs follow the form and some have the appearance of a “spirit face” repeated two-to-four times on the surface.

Called kamana, or eating bowl, these bowls are stored bottom-side up so the motifs, which have changed little since these vessels were first collected in the midtwentieth century, are visible.