

C.O.W. Accession No. 1972.5
Object/Work *kanaga* (kä nä' Gä) mask
Creation Date 20th century
Artist not known
Artist's Dates 20th century

Artist Nationality/Ethnicity African/ Mali/ Dogon

Title/Name

Classification

Physical Description

--vertical mask. Its lower part is a face mask with two horns. Its upper part is an extension with two oval perforations and two niches for two traverse rods (which are missing). The background color is dark brown, decorated with splotches of orange pigment and light brown pigment (or mud). The eyes are rectangular holes set into rectangular recesses, the division between the two, and the base, making up the nose. The mouth is dome-shaped and has a carved opening. There are rectangular slits on the side of the mask and the top has two small horns. Only the vertical stem of a



State

Edition

Materials wood

Exhibition Loan History

--*The William C. Mithoefer Collection of African Art, August 26–October 5, 2008, The College of Wooster Art Museum; curator, Kitty McManus Zurko, research assistant, Gitika Mohta '10.*
--*A Glimpse of Black Africa, Sandusky Area Cultural Center, Sandusky, Oh. Feb 4- 25, 1979.*
--*African Images, Feb-March 1980, Frick Art Museum, The*

Measurements 37 3/4 h x 8 w x 5 3/8 d (inches)

Inscriptions/Marks

Related Textual Reference

--Wassing, *African Art*, New York, 1968, pg 101.
--"Much of Dogon cosmology is expressed in the superstructure attached to the archetypal mask form which recalls ancient Mali mosques and Dogon architecture. The *kanaga* mask is danced at funerals (this one no longer has the cross-pieces that were attached to the back of the vertical support) and falls into the category of Dogon masks that expresses ideas. The other two categories are masks with figurative or animal depictions.
The *kanaga* mask is danced in groups of twenty or more and is worn by *awa* (a' wä) initiates on the third day after a death, the time when the Dogon believe the spirit leaves the body. Although the form of the *kanaga* mask (see below) has been interpreted to imply a bird in flight, a mythological crocodile, or the arrangement of the universe, the different interpretations are probably linked to the level of knowledge acquired by the initiate." KMZ, from object label used in COW exhibit 9/98.

Current Location Ebert

Shelf/Drawer No. A10

Date Received 1972

Donor Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Mithoefer

C.O.W. Accession No. 1976.23
Object/Work Satimbe mask, Dama ceremony
Creation Date 20th century
Artist not known

Artist Nationality/Ethnicity African/ Mali/ Dogon

Artist's Dates

Title/Name

Classification

Physical Description

--the mask is pigmented with red, white and black. Its only facial features are the holes carved for eyes inside 2 rectangular trenches. The ears protrude from the side and are long and rectangular. A large female figure squats upon the top of the head. She has no arms and only 4 toes on each foot.

--according to Dogon myth, at the beginning of time, man did not know death and evolved into serpents or spirits at an advanced age. Undergoing this transformation, an old man was so surprised that he abuse the living in the secret language of the transformed. This caused his death and since then, masks associated with dead

State

Edition

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--*The William C. Mithoefer Collection of African Art, August 26–October 5, 2008, The College of Wooster Art Museum; curator, Kitty McManus Zurko, research assistant, Gitika Mohta '10.*

--*African Images*, Frick Art Museum, College of Wooster, Ohio, Feb.-March, 1980.

--*The Faces of Africa*, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, Ohio,

Related Textual Reference

--Malraux. *The Arts of Mankind, African Art*, New York: Golden Press, 1968, fig. 43.



Materials wood

Measurements 25 1/2 h x 7 1/4 w (inches)

Inscriptions/Marks

Current Location Ebert

Shelf/Drawer No. A13

Date Received 1977

Donor Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Mithoefer

C.O.W. Accession No. 1976.14
Object/Work bird mask (Wango spirit)
Creation Date
Artist not known

Artist Nationality/Ethnicity African/ Upper Voltan/ Burkina Faso/ Mossi/ Koudougou

Artist's Dates

Title/Name

Classification

Physical Description

--this dance mask consists of a short rounded cap surmounted by a stylized bird-like crest with a long beak extending in the front and a flat flaring comb with raised center rib in back. The cap itself is smoothly carved with white and black pigment. Designs of sectioned strips are on either side and at front of cap. Red pigmented strip runs along black of cap; black strips in front. Bird crest has incised geometric design of diagonal and vertical lines, and is pigmented in red, white and black. Drilled holes serve as eyes on the crest.



State

Edition

Materials wood

Exhibition Loan History

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--*African Images*, Frick Art Museum, the College of Wooster, Feb.- March, 1980
--*The Faces of Africa*, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, Ohio,

Measurements 5 h x 5 3/4 w x 21 1/4 d (inches)

Inscriptions/Marks

Related Textual Reference

Current Location Ebert

Shelf/Drawer No. A10

Date Received 1977

Donor Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Mithoefer

C.O.W. Accession No. 1976.15
Object/Work antelope mask
Creation Date 20th century
Artist not known

Artist Nationality/Ethnicity African/ Kurumba/Burkina Faso

Artist's Dates

Title/Name

Classification

Physical Description

--stylized animal head with incised, geometrical decoration. There are long, extended horns and a beak. Two small holes are drilled for eyes. There is a deep crest between the horns, beneath which ears protrude. A geometric patten in red, white and black pigment covers the exterior of the object and features stripes on the outside of the horns. Holes are punctured around the base to facilitate the wearing of the mask on top of the head. (see similar piece in Fagg, which is considered rare)



State

Edition

Materials wood, pigment

Exhibition Loan History

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--*The Faces of Africa, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, Ohio, March 8- April 5, 1992.*

--*Selections from the African Collection: The College of Wooster*

Measurements 6 h x 6 5/8 w x 21 3/8 l (inches)

Inscriptions/Marks

Related Textual Reference

--Fagg, William, *African Tribal Images*, Cleveland: the Cleveland Museum of Art, 1968, figure 39.

Current Location Ebert

Shelf/Drawer No. A10

Date Received 1977

Donor Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Mithoefer