



Object/Work: 609.6 mm

Sculpture

Date

1800-1850

Medium

Wood, pigment

Description

Carved painted column of a male and female figure. Most African figural carvings in Western museums - like these objects - date from the 19th Century, because earlier versions have not survived. Wood eating termites eventually consume older carvings. Woodcarvers are taught to adhere faithfully to traditional styles, which are then passed on to the next generation, thus preserving ancient traditions. The master woodcarver can express his personal style within the limits of traditional, with some virtuoso carvers being identified by their distinctive body of work.

Dimensions