



GALERIE MEYER  
OCEANIC & ESKIMO ART



### **Greenland Eskimo Spear Thrower with Seals**

Circa: 1880-1920

A spear thrower, or Atlatl, with partial decoration.

The spear thrower is used to augment both the thrust and accuracy of the spear/harpoon as it adds an extra de-multiplication to the leverage of the user's arm. The motifs are carved as individual elements and pegged to the outside of the spear thrower in an organized fashion. There are 12 seals remaining from the pegged decoration. The digitized handle of the Atlatl has a bone edge to one side. The bone upper socket is inserted and pegged to the main section. There are two bone rimmed holes for the attachment to the harpoon when not in use. Ammassalik (Angmagsalik) Eskimo, Greenland. Wood (cedar or pine), walrus tusk & bone,. 52,4 cm. Circa 1880-1920.

### **Literature:**

See similar examples in the Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Museum, Washington D.C., N° 17/8225 ; and in the British Museum notably the one collected in Greenland by Andrew Croft, who

accompanied Sir Martin Lindsay, 1st Bt, CBE, DSO (1905-1981) on the British Trans Greenland Expedition in 1934.