



Admiralty Island Figurative Ladle ex La Korrigane

A very fine and important, figurative, ceremonial ladle used by men of importance. The handle represents a large, standing, male ancestor figure in the classical style of the Admiralty islands. He is portrayed wearing a conical headdress, a war-charm on the nape of his neck, and the initiates, shell, penis-ornament.

The handle is inserted into the polished half shell of a coconut and lashed together at the rim. The attachment is waterproofed with parinarium nut paste. Ladles of this type are used by men as eating utensils and the level of their status is indicated by the sophistication and form of the handle. Some ladles represent clan related symbols while others more rarely bear ancestral representations as here.

Ladles were an important trade items and eagerly sought after by foreign visitors to the Admiralties resulting in a large selection of unused and un-patinated ladles in museum and private collections. The example here shows extensive wear and usage and is obviously an object of powerful prestige and function.

Carved by Kumayo, a Matankor man from the Pam Islands, Southern Admiralty Islands, Bismarck

Archipelago, PNG, Melanesia.

Wood, fiber, coconut shell, parinarium paste and traces of pigments with a fine patina of age and usage.

25 x 12,8 cm.

19th/20th century.

Literature:

Pub. : Ottino-Garanger, Marc : LES OBJETS DE LA KORRIGANE A TRAVERS LES VENTES PUBLIQUES – État des lieux. Travail privé de compilation sous la direction de Christian Coiffier, Paris 2011/2012, p. 19.