

Basic Detail Report



Rubbing oracle (itombwa) and implement

Medium

Wood

Description

Long figure lying horizontally, supported with legs underneath, with smooth, flat abdomen. Implement missing. A diviner uses this instrument in order to determine the guilt of a person. This test is generally applied to those persons believed to be witches. The diviner rubs a round, handled disk (now missing) across the smooth surface of the "belly" of the carved figure. If the disk sticks, the accused is believed to be guilty; if the disk slides easily, the accused is innocent. Craftsmen carve divining implements in various shapes; the crocodile and dog forms are most common. The male figure depicted here with Kuba scarification, is simply a human form. It does not represent either the accused or a deity.

Dimensions

25 1/2 inches (64.8 cm)