

Basic Detail Report



Karako washing Daruma

Date

19th century

Medium

Carved ivory; ink

Description

Netsuke carved in the form of a karako (Chinese child) holding a fly whisk in his right hand and hugging a stylized figure of Daruma (Bodhidharma), the sixth-century Indian sage and founder of Chan (Zen) Buddhism in China. The egg-like shape of Daruma's rotund body and hooded robe is typical in Japanese children's toys. Here Daruma's intense facial expression captures the physical anguish of nine years of seated meditation facing a cave wall, during which his legs atrophied and withered away. Ink is rubbed into the surface to enhance texture and design of child's robe and Daruma's features. Signature reading "Sanraku" on underside, with single perforation.

Dimensions

1 1/4 x 13/16 x 1 5/16 inches (3.2 x 2.1 x 3.3 cm)