

Nom : Funerary vessel

Description : Funerary vessel, Possibly Efik peoples, lower Cross River region, Calabar area, Nigeria, Early 20th century, Wood, skin, plant fiber, bone, dye

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Skin-covered masks in Africa are found only in southeastern Nigeria and western Cameroon. Historical evidence suggests that the peoples of this region regard skin as a substance associated with the spirits of the dead and their animal counterparts. The facial features are realistically portrayed. The spiral horns are similar to the hairstyles worn by girls during a ceremony marking the end of their seclusion prior to marriage.

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