

Nom : Isoko Figures

Description : Mask, Isoko peoples, Bendel State, Ase village, Nigeria, Mid-20th century, wood, plant fiber, cowrie shells, pigment, metal

The paired animals atop the mask probably honor a major local deity for warfare. Masqueraders wore costumes of feathers and colorful scarves with these masks, which were the focus of a festival that was celebrated each March to cleanse the town before other festivals were held.

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Source : Musée national d'art africain