

Nom : Mask

Description : Mask, Dogon peoples, Mali, Early 20th century, Wood, pigment, plant fiber
Dogon masks are part of a complex ritual cycle and play an important role in initiation and funeral ceremonies. Since the 1930s, they have also been used in a variety of entertainment performances. Crocodile masks vary from village to village; this mask is smaller than many and has carved as well as painted patterns. The zigzag design suggests flowing water, referring to the natural habitat of the crocodile and to the fluid nature of the nommo, the mythic beings involved in the creation of mankind and culture. The crocodile is described positively as a servant of the nommo and a protector of scarce pools of water.

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Source : Musée national d'art africain