



DESCRIPTION

Among the Igbo peoples of north central Igboland, pubescent girls (agbogho) prepared for womanhood through a process called nkpu, which translates as "fattening confinement." While overeating and maintaining the weight gained by not working or exercising for six months or longer (depending upon the family's economic situation), girls spent their time learning how to be beautiful, both physically and morally. In addition to the obligatory excision, their bodies were decorated with delicately painted uli patterns and mbudu or ebubu scarification. Select village women taught the girls how to be virtuous and dutiful wives, housekeepers, and nurturing mothers. At the appointed time, the initiates reentered village life ready for marriage and family life. The event was celebrated with a promenade around the village at which time the initiated women were honored with gifts of cowries, which were used as currency before the introduction of coins and paper money.

DETAILS

- Culture: Igbo People
- Geography: Nigeria
- Circa: 19th - 20th C
- Size: 8"W x 28"H x 8"D
- Weight: Approximately 5LBS
- Materials: Wood, Fibers, Pigment

LIST PRICING

• SIB0001.....004401