



Ofu-eku or Okpurukpa (masquerade cloth)

Date

Late 20th C

Artist/Maker

Unknown, Igala

Medium

Cotton cloth

Description

Masquerade cloth handwoven on a man's horizontal loom in nine strips stitched together edge to edge. Handspun cotton is resist-dyed in indigo, leaving undyed white triangles and lines of dashes. Border is applied strips of red and yellow machine-woven cloth

upon which braided twists of white and blue yarn have been stitched. Each corner has a wooden stick covered by indigo-dyed cloth, around which strips of red and yellow cloth is wound. This type of cloth is called ofu-eku or okpurukpa by the Nsukka Igbo people, who use it to make mask costumes for the ojiornu, omabe, and akatakpa masquerades.

Dimensions

c. 53 1/2" W x 98 1/2" L (w/ o sticks)

Object number

AF1991.05.HOW