

# Object Summary



## Carved and Painted Wooden Barong Ket

19th century

Bali, Indonesia

Wood, polychrome pigments

Overall: 8 × 7 1/2 × 11 in. (20.3 × 19.1 × 27.9cm)

Barong is the manifestation of the benevolent forces forming the delicate balance of good and evil in the cosmos. He is regarded as the protector who symbolizes health and fortune. The Barong mask is the most sacred part of the character and its locus of supernatural power; it is not worn, but rather carried in front of the face, its jaws operated by a dancer's hands. The mask's jaw makes a clapping noise characteristic of Barong,

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who does not speak during the performance. During the dance-drama, Barong is brought to life by two dancers encased in the mask, headdress, and decorated costume.