



ANTHROPOLOGIST.

AWESOME.

ANTHROPOLOGIST=

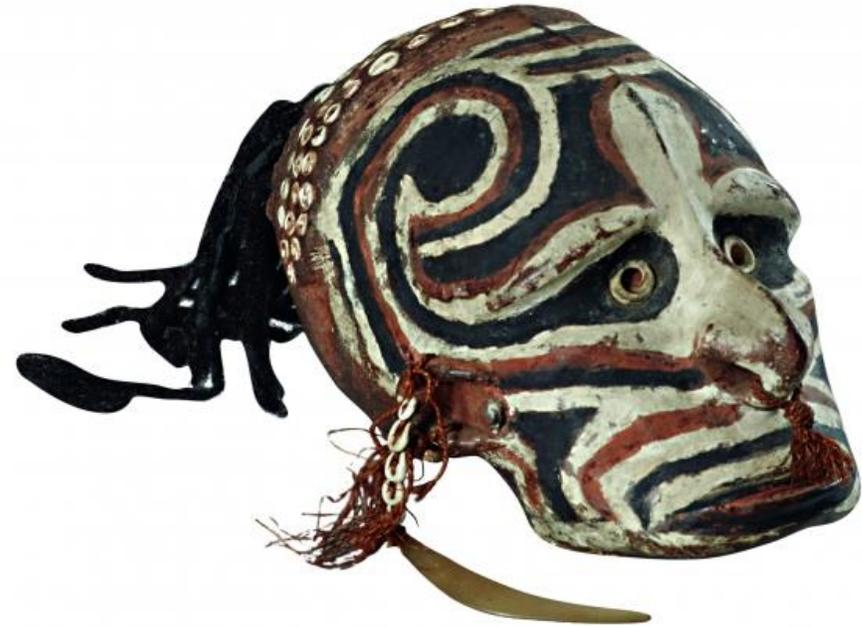


PROFESSIONAL STALKER

The Art of Papua New Guinea



- The art of Papua New Guinea has been called:
- wild



Ancestor skull Middle Sepik

- The art of Papua New Guinea has been called:
- frightening



Mask Middle Sepik

- The art of Papua New Guinea has been called:
- beautiful



Mask Middle Sepik

- The art of Papua New Guinea has been called:
- exotic



Crocodile Middle Sepik

- Local art has been collected since foreigners first came to New Guinea.



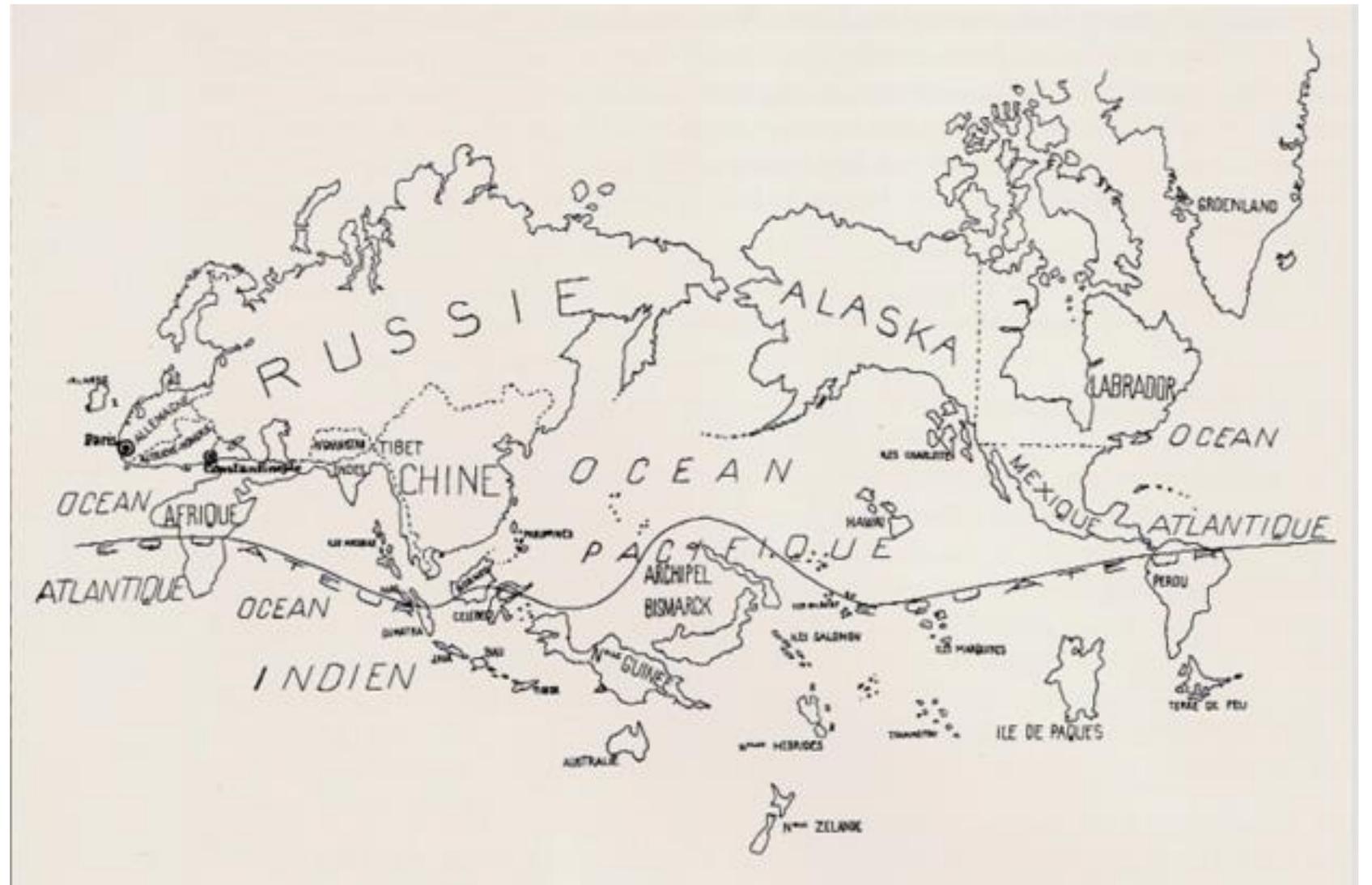
in Fakfak and Manokwari, followed by Merauke in 1902.

- PNG art has influenced many foreign artists.



Collection of Andre Breton

- European surrealists saw the Pacific region as the center of the world.



- Emil Nolde of the Die Brücke group was influenced by Sepik masks.



- It's only since the end of WWI that serious collecting began.



- Early collecting focused on the anthropology of the art.



Anthropology Museum, UBC

- Artwork from PNG is now displayed around the world for its intrinsic beauty.



Paris

Sepik River Art

- Perhaps the most sought after are pieces from the Sepik River, particularly carvings.



Middle Sepik

- There are about 85,000 pieces of art from the Sepik area in Australia.



National Gallery of Australia

- Trade relationships along the river created a situation which resulted in some diffusion of artistic styles.



Middle Sepik

- But individual villages and ethnic groups are also known for their unique styles.



Aibom Village Chambri Lakes

- In the Chambri Lakes area, fish and bird life are prominent in their carvings.



Hornbill Flute

- The orator's stool holds great cultural significance, personifying an ancestral or spirit figure.



Orator's stool Kanganaman

- In the Sepik area villages each have their own distinct manner of carving, although they share some commonalities in style.



Masks Murik Lakes

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Masks Palembi

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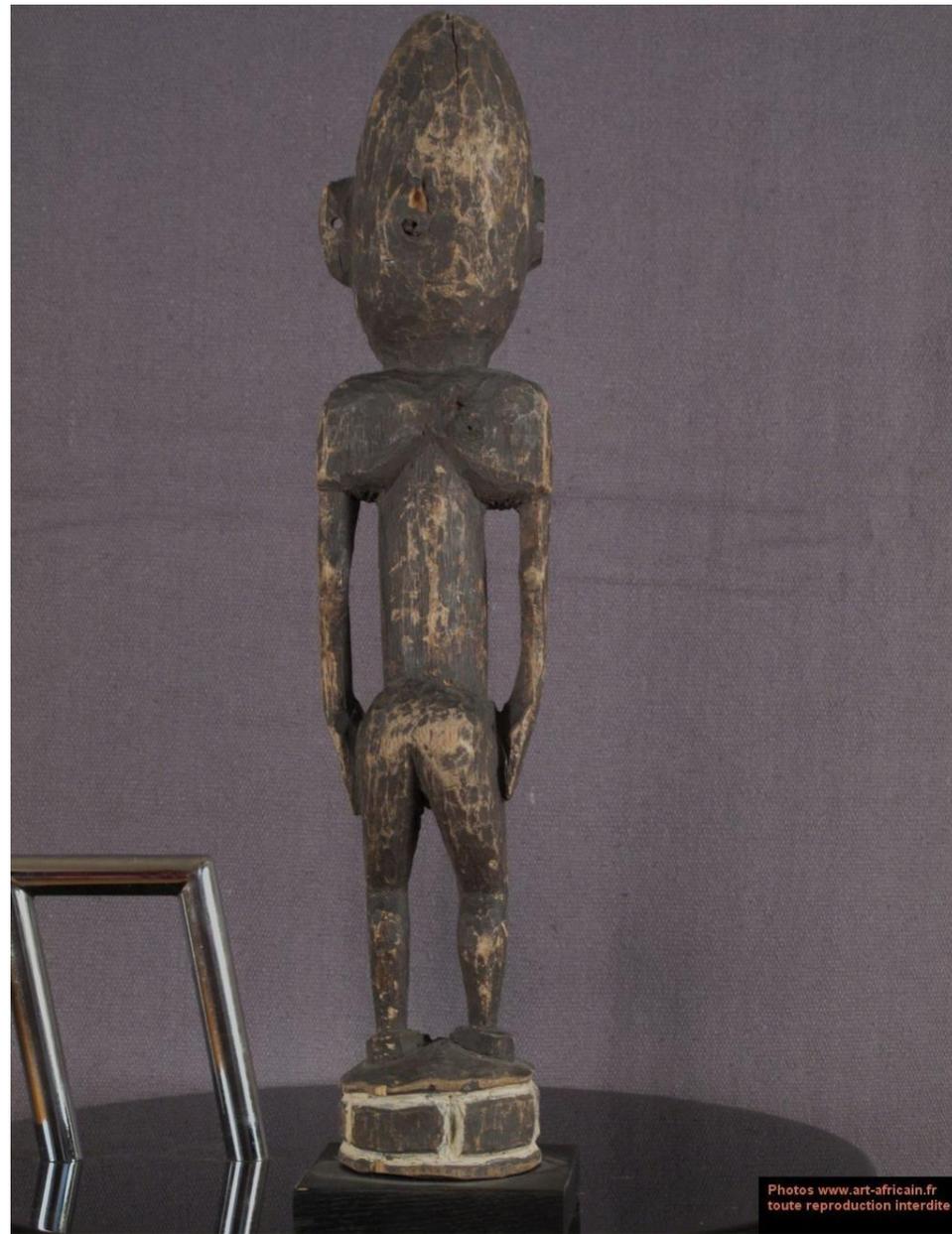
Ancestor Figure Murik Lake

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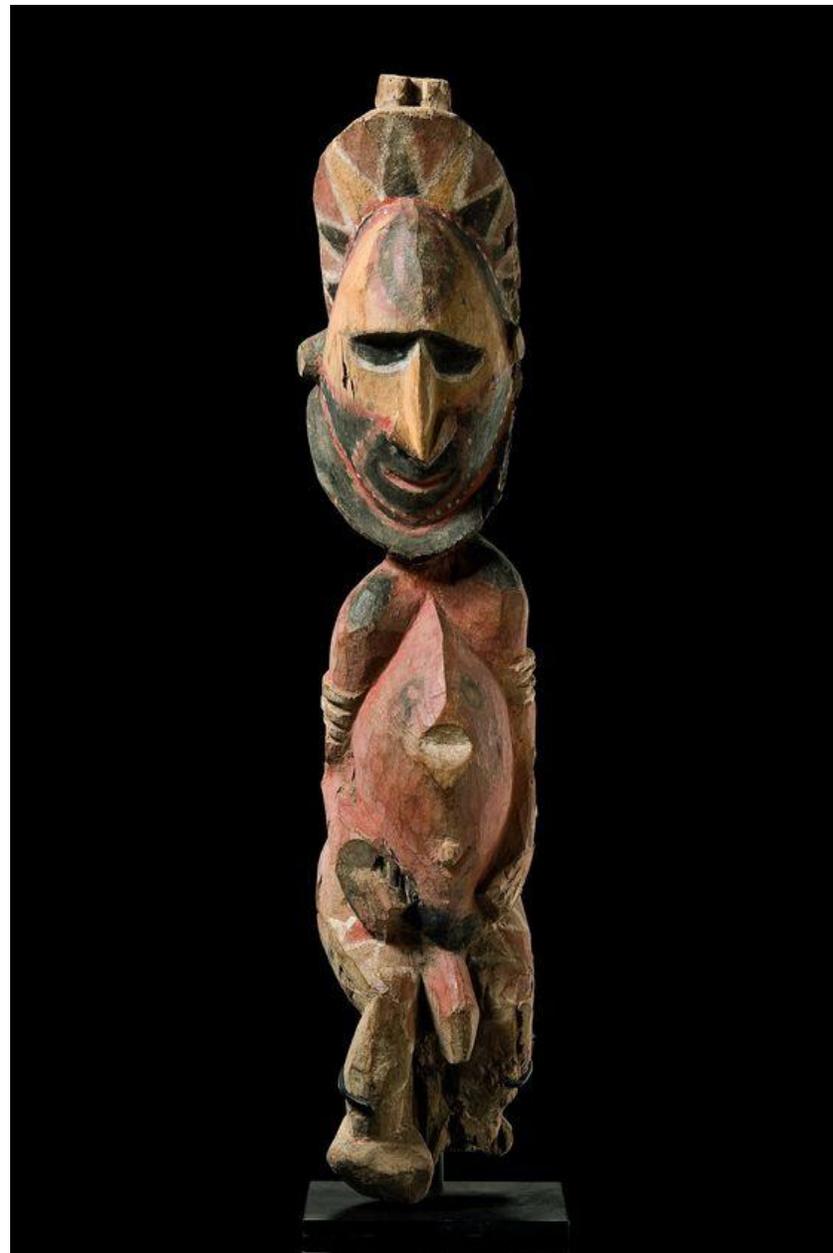
Ancestor Figure Middle Sepik

- Lower Sepik carvings are typically male, with figures slightly stooped.



Male Figure Lower Sepik

- Heads and torso are slightly exaggerated with limbs sometimes shorter.



Ancestor Figure Lower Sepik

- Another characteristic of Sepik art is the exaggeration of the nose.



House Mask Sepik

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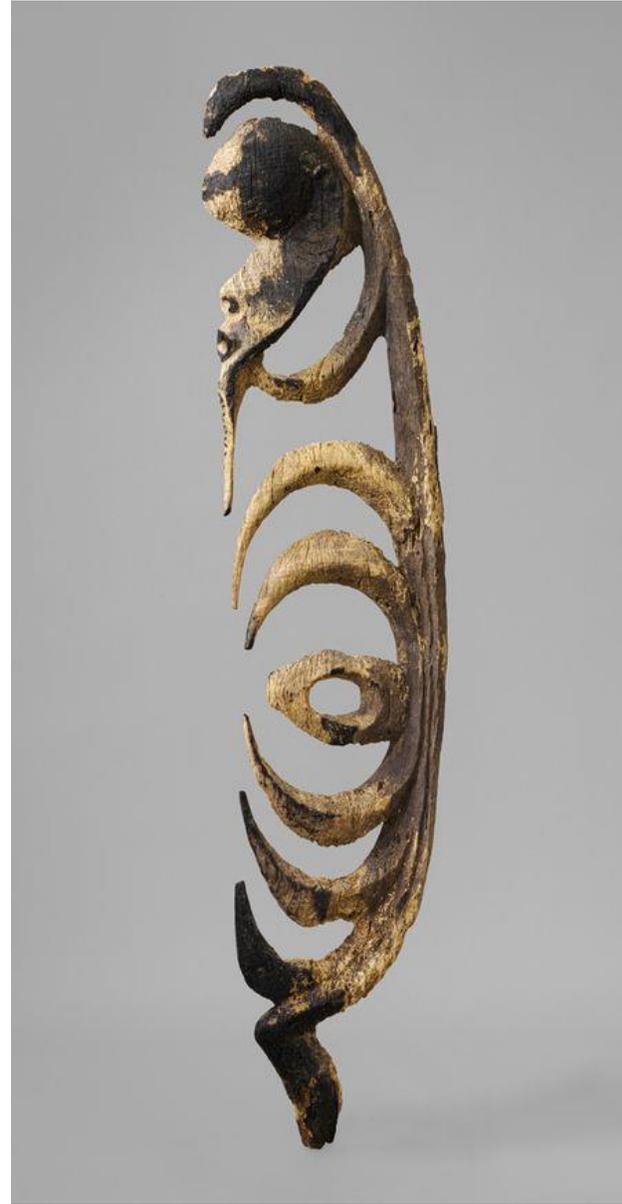
Mask Mendam Village Murik Lakes

- Sometimes morphing into another figure – human or animal.



Mask Tambanum

- Curved lines are a common feature of many carvings.



Middle Sepik

- Curved lines are a common feature of many carvings.



Palembei Village

- Curved lines are a common feature of many carvings.



Palembei Village

- Often, a new style or image results from what a carver saw in his dream.



Billy Kiten Mask

Masks

- Masks play an important role in ceremonial life.



Ancestor Mask Lower Sepik

- The earliest masks were made of leaves. Surviving are ones made from wood, bark, reed and a very few of clay



Gable Mask Sepik

- Among the Biwat and Chambri, individually owned masks were prestigious possessions.



Biwat Mask

- Most masks represent mythical or recently deceased ancestors.



Ancestor Mask Blackwater River

- Some masks were worn, others resided in the men's house to be used in rituals, but not worn.



Sepik Clan Mask

Figures

- Sculptures of the human form may represent legendary or recently deceased ancestors, or water and wood spirits.



Ancestor Middle Sepik

- Figures were sometimes made in pairs.



Human figures Lower Sepik

- Most of the ancestral figures were kept in the haus tambaran.



Ancestor Face Chambri

- Figures might also be used to protect ancestral burial grounds.



Two Figures Iatmul

Musical Instruments

- Musical instruments are a vital part of ritual and ceremonial life.



Hornbill Flute Middle Sepik

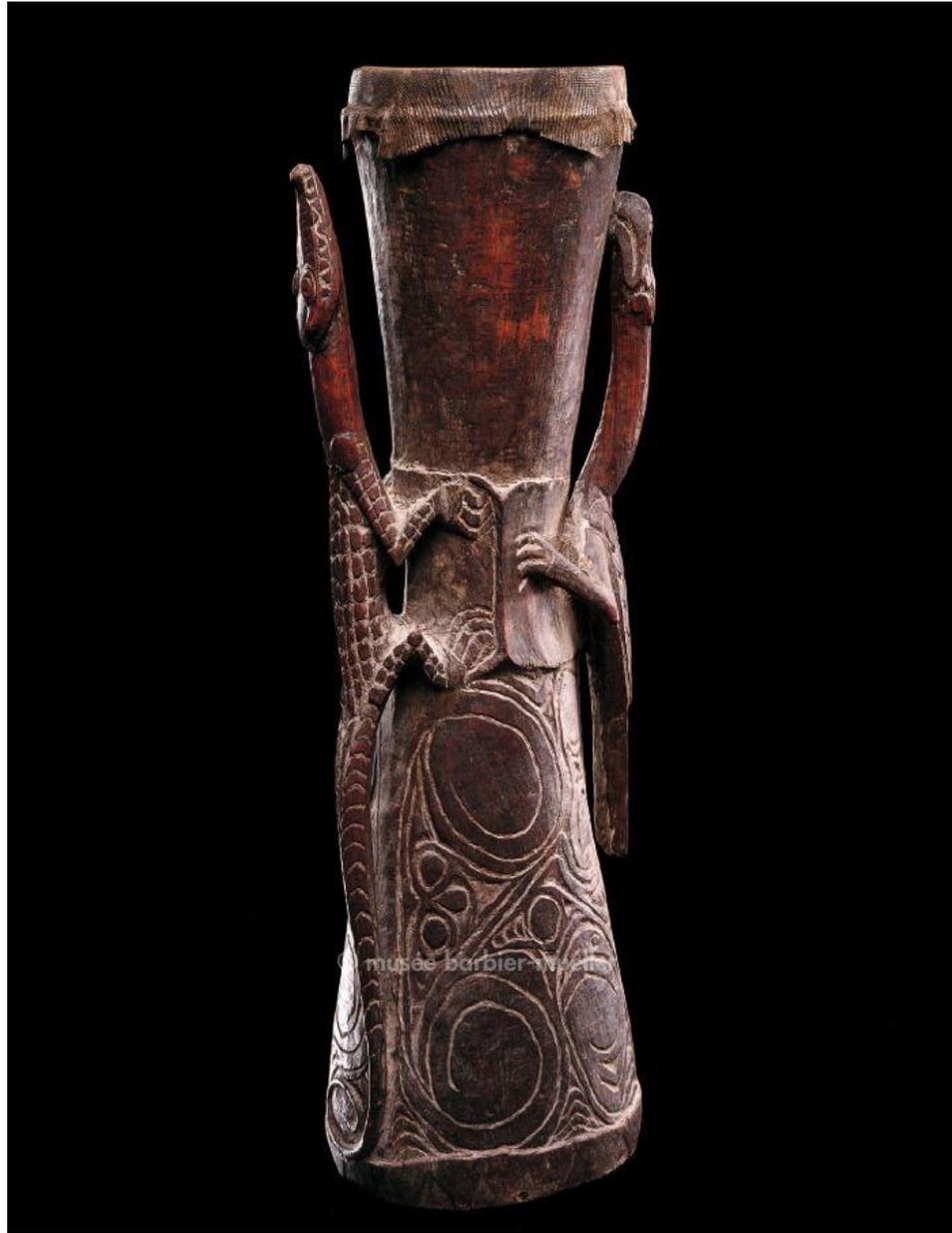
Drums

- Drums play a prominent part in sing-sings, both the hand-held drums (kundu) and the large Garamut slit-gongs.



Crocodile Drum Lower Sepik

- latmul carvers speak special words to invite ancestral spirits to enter their works and thus give it power.



Drum latmul

- The Garamut slit-gongs are usually placed on stands.



Band with Kundu, Guitars and Garamut

- The Garamut slit-gongs are usually placed on stands.



Garamut Sepik

- Crocodile heads are often found at the ends of the drum.



Garamut Sepik

Flutes

- Flute music accompanied the rituals of Sepik life.



Biwat Flutes

- Flute music could ease the pain of male initiations.



Flute Stopper latmul

- Chambri flutes were pitched to sound like birds and animals.



Sawos Female Spirit Flute

- Among the latmul flutes were played in pairs, the younger pitched one tone above the elder.



Flute Players Kanganamam Village

- Flutes can be played by themselves or with drums.



Flute Players Wombun Village

Bilums

- A bilum is a string bag traditionally made from plant fibers.



Bilum PNG

- Many villagers now find it easier to use wool-based yarns to make their bags.



Bilums PNG

- Bilums are used to carry a variety of objects, including babies.



Bilum Baby

- In the East Sepik some groups believed that babies would grow stronger if they slept in bilums with tree barks tied on the sides to protect them from bad spirits.



Bilum Baby

- Traditionally designs and patterns on bilums represented local myths connected with the people that made them.



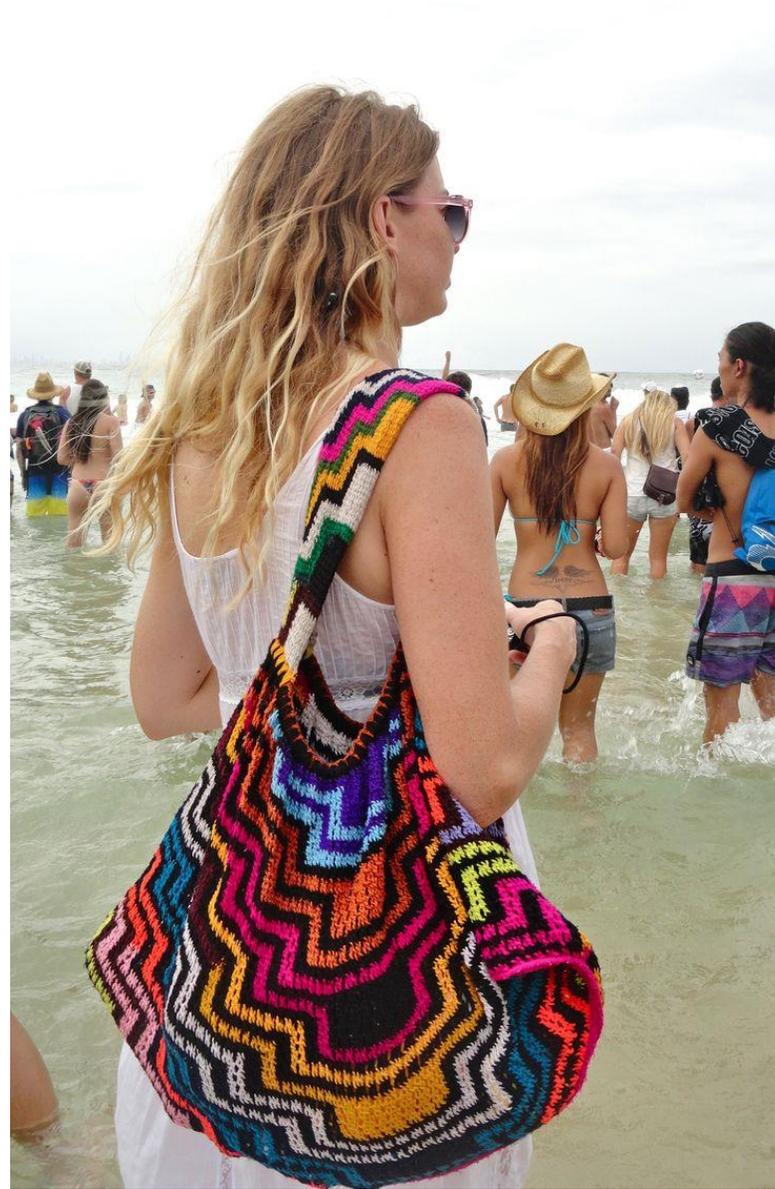
Bilum Sepik River

- The concept of bilums are very marketable overseas, and a French company has registered Bilum as a trademark.



French Company Logo

- Bilums are now found everywhere, and some women in PNG, export their products.



- Bilums are now found everywhere, and some women in PNG, export their products.



- Bilums can be quite fashionable anywhere in the world.



- For women and men.



- For women and men.



- In the old style a married woman would wear a bilum like this.



Personal Adornment

- Art is not restricted to material artifacts, dress is art as well.



Kopar Village

- Armbands



- Skirts



Sepik Puberty Skirt

- Skirts

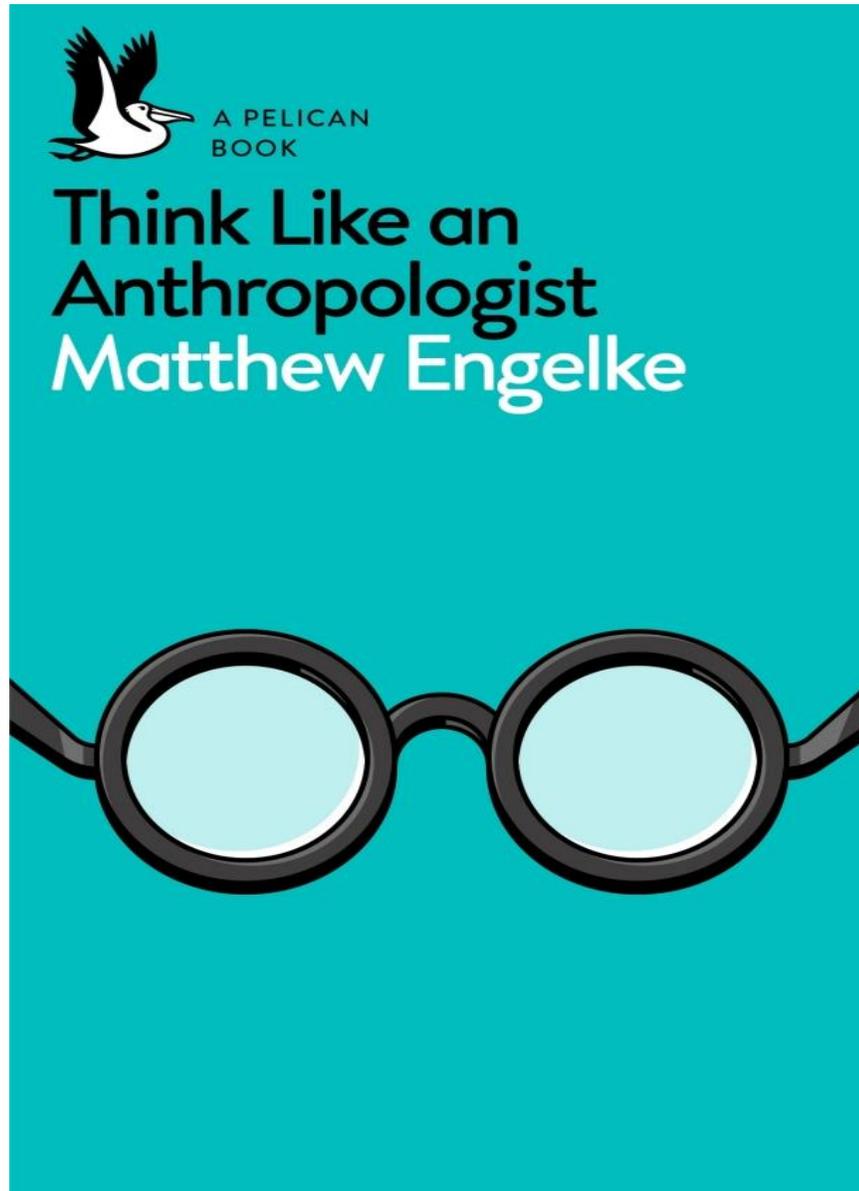


Kamindimbit Village

- Skirts



Anthropologist Alert!



Personal
adornments can be :

exotic



- Bizarre



- Enticing



- Enticing



- They can define us.



- They can define us.



- They can define us.



- They help us celebrate rituals.



- Necklaces



Dobu

- Necklaces



Tufi Shell Necklace

- Necklaces



Necklace Sepic River

- Necklaces



Mendam Village Murik Lakes

- Headdresses



- Headdresses



Korafe Man

- Headdresses



Sepik River

- Headdresses



Kamindimbit Village

Other Forms

- Utilitarian objects such as hooks from which baskets or bilums of food and other items were hung as a protection from rats.



Hook Sepik River

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Hook Sepik River

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Ancestor Hook Torembe Village

- Mortars are also objects of fantastic creation.



Betel nut Mortar Murik

- Mortars are also objects of fantastic creation.



Betel nut Mortar Murik

- Canoes are often decorated with the iconic figure of the crocodile.



Crocodile Prow Tambanum

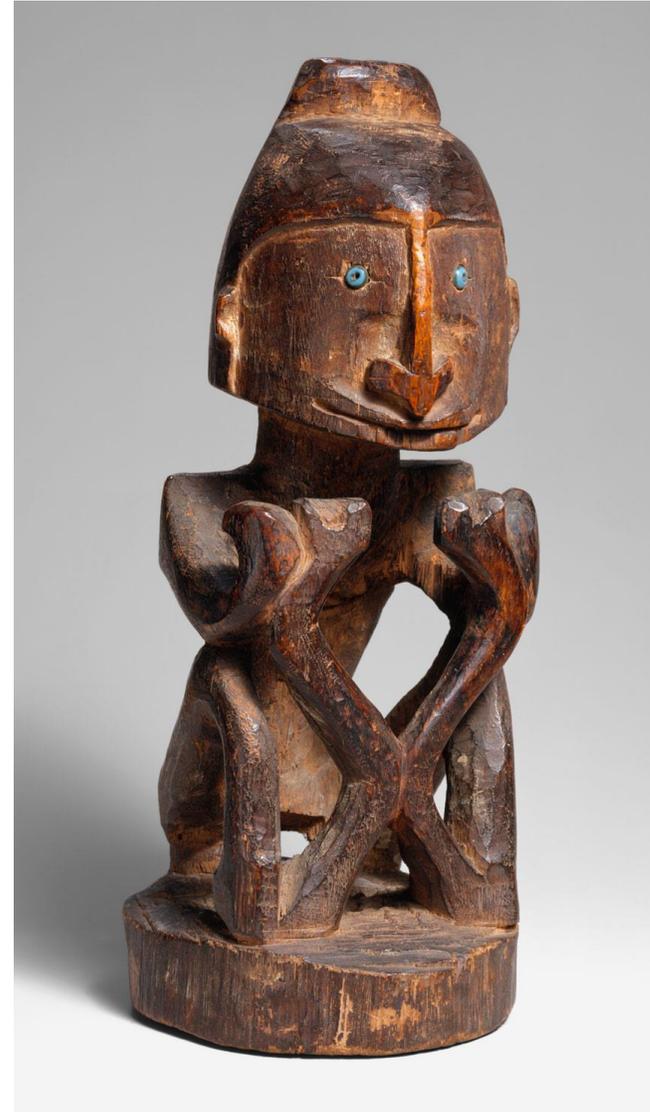
- Even headrests are beautiful pieces of art.



Headrest Middle Sepik

A Favorite from the Other Side

- The Korwar is an ancestor figure used to help the living.



- Like living humans, he could be a difficult fellow.

