



Kuba cup

Not on display

Title/Description: Kuba cup

Object Type: Cup

Materials: Wood

Measurements: h. 75 x w. 143 x d. 126 mm

Accession Number: 1272

Historic Period: 19th/early 20th century

Production Place: Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Cultural Group: Kuba

Credit Line: Donated by Lisa Sainsbury, 2003

This cup - made to hold palm wine on special occasions - once belonged to the renowned French art dealer Paul Guillaume, one of the most important dealers of African art to the Parisian avant-garde. It originates from the kingdom of Kuba, now incorporated into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Kuba are renowned for their use of surface decoration and interlacing patterns of symbolic significance. The dense geometric, carved patterns on cups derive from textile designs. This type of patterning was keenly taken up by European artists and designers in the first part of the twentieth century.

Calvin Winner, February 2022

Exhibitions

'Basketry: Making Human Nature', Sainsbury Centre, 2/2011 - 5/2011

'Magdalene Odundo: The Journey of Things', The Hepworth Wakefield, 2/2019 - 6/2019

'Magdalene Odundo: The Journey of Things', Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 8/2019 - 12/2019

'Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth', Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 13/3/2022 - 17/7/2022

Provenance

Formerly belonging to Paul Guillaume and then John Hewett.

Purchased by Lisa Sainsbury at auction, lot 152 in Christie's Paris sale on 10 December 2003.

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from Lisa Sainsbury in 2003.
