



## 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

TO-BE-REPLACED-WITH-A-GAP

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.

---

## 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

'Power Plants: Intoxicants, Stimulants and Narcotics', Sainsbury Centre, UK, 14/09/2024-02/02/2025

---

## 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.

---