



Painted Bentwood Box

Date

c. 1899

Medium

cedar, paint

Description

made from cedar. the four sides are made from a single hand made board, kerfed at intervals, then steamed and bent. the last corner joint and the bottom board are secured with wooden pegs. the lid is 8cm deep, carved from a single board and hollowed out on the underside to reduce the weight. the painted decoration consists of two similar bilaterally symmetrical formline designs covering front and back faces. these designs each depict a large, stylized formline head with body appendages beneath. on the head, the primary formline follows the line of the lower jaw, then goes up the sides of the head, around the inner edge of the eye socket, and down to the corner of

the mouth. the eye is a large, elaborated ovoid, surrounded by a thin tertiary line without eyelid points. beneath the head design, the appendages are formed from a bilaterally symmetrical design involving 2 large formline ovoids, each encompassing a single eye and surmounted by a primary formline ear. main formlines and tertiary lines are in black; secondary lines are in red. the lid exterior has been painted black.

Dimensions

Other: 52 × 40 × 43.5 cm (20 1/2 × 15 3/4 × 17 1/8 in.) Other (lid): 8 × 43.5 × 47.5 cm (3 1/8 × 17 1/8 × 18 11/16 in.)