



Monkey Netsuke

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Japanese

Medium

Carved boxwood

Description

The word netsuke is formed using the symbol ne (根) meaning “root” and tsuke (着) meaning “attach.” The first netsuke were created in late sixteenth-century Japan as simple button fasteners for pouches and other containers that were hung on the sash (obi) of a kimono. As time progressed, the carving of these small figures became increasingly intricate as netsuke transformed from purely functional objects into fashionable indicators of status. Netsuke commonly depict imagery from nature, myth, and Japanese history. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, netsuke also

became a popular type of collectible in the West. Carved boxwood monkey netsuke with glass eyes.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 3/4 × 1 1/4 × 1 1/4 in. (4.4 × 3.2 × 3.2 cm)