

Medallion

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/medallion-2022-018-056-1/>

Collections / Native cultures / medallion



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

This bas-relief medallion features a walrus (aiviq) and a bearded seal (utjuk).

Accession Number 2022.18.56.1

Period 20th century

Materials ivory, walrus

Measurements 5 x 3 cm

Historical context

This medallion is carved in sock relief on a piece of ivory cut transversely from a walrus tusk. One face is flattened and polished, while on the reverse, the outline of two walrus heads (*Odobenus rosmarus*: aiviq, in the Inuit language) reveals one displaying two tusks characteristic of an adult and the second, tuskless, possibly depicting an immature walrus. In the absence of further details, the latter may also represent an utjuk, or bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus*). The thick folds of the necks of the two marine mammals are insistently engraved. The small dimensions of this sock suggest that it is a medallion which, incidentally, could be used in jewelry to make a brooch or pendant, the theme of which is, in this case, quite original.

© Pointe-à-Callière Collection, Michel Noël Collection, 2022.018.056.1

Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich