

Sculpture

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/sculpture-2022-018-137/>

Collections / Native cultures / sculpture





CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Steatite sculpture of a Sedna face.

Accession Number 2022.18.137

Artiste / Auteur Nastapoka, Davidee

Date 2004

Materials stone, soapstone

Measurements 22,5 x 21,5 x 16,6 cm

Historical context

Head sculpture by Davidee Nastapoka (1945-) from Inukjuak, Nunavik. This large-scale soapstone work is close to the actual scale of a human head. With a physiognomy of distorted features, it's the separate hairstyle in the center of the head, falling behind the ears and separating at the nape of the neck, that suggests this is a representation of a woman's head.

For some, this 2004 piece represents the "Woman of the Sea", whose names include Iqaluullamiluuq (half-human, half-fish) in Nunavik and Sedna elsewhere in the Arctic. However, aside from the deformed facial features, this interpretation is difficult to validate without knowing the artist's intentions. Massive with rounded corners, this triangular face with its disproportionate details is probably no more than a portrait, but rather a free and highly personal interpretation of the human face with the deformations found on other sculptures by the same artist.

Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich