

Bundu mask. Sande Society, Mende peoples (West African forests of Sierra Leone and Liberia)
19th to 20th century C.E. Wood, cloth, and fiber.

Form:
The Bundu mask is a cylindrical shape and the face on it looks rounder than normal. The face seems like it has scarification. The eyes are closed and the face is very serious. The head has some sort of crown or headdress on it.

Context:
The Bundu or Sande Society is a Pan-African Association of women that educates and initiates young women into adult society as leaders and wives.

Context:
This society is also a medicinal society that uses both spiritual and physical therapies to help those who need it, especially women and children.

Function:
These masks are different in the fact that they are only worn by women at public events, not men.

Function:
Used by the Sande society on the occasion of the most solemn anniversaries, during funeral ceremonies, while executing justice, and in the initiation that makes it possible to become a sande.

Content:
Mask also represents an ideal of feminine beauty admired by the Mende people.

Content:
This mask represents the spirit of fecundity and is meant to be the incarnation of the female waters.

Form:
The slim nose, delicate lips, the serenity in the forehead, and the presence of the neck/nape is common among Bundu masks and refers to aesthetic values, philosophical and religious concepts

Form:
The masks always have female features even when they are representing males.



Sources:

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/artgallery/exhibitDetail.asp?exhibitID=52>
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