

The Angakok Spirit Mask



Shaman and drum

The 'Angakok' (Inuit shaman) are the central figure in Eskimo spiritualism. Shaman mediate between the world of man and the realm of spirits and the 'spirit mask' is a key part of that task.



Spirits in many forms

Masks are made of driftwood, animal hide, bone, pigments, feathers and walrus ivory.



Shaman among the animal spirits

Wooden mask painted black



Distorted human features allow him to enter the spirit realm.



893 Holsteinsborg HBG		KALATDLIT NUNAT KALATDLIT NUNAT	
v.) (i.)		ADRESSEKO: adressekort - nagsiússat agd	
Toldpligtig i Danmark		HOLSTEINSBORG 10.-11.-1982	
Afsenderens navn og adresse: nagsiússissup arka najugálo: Lundsgaard Box 1001 3911 Zebg. Grønland		Modtagerens navn og adresse: nagsititup arka najugálo: Fam. Lundsgaard Strandbølven 7 5600 Faaborg Danmark	
Antal pakker: pørtugkat amerdlássusiat: 1		Vægt: okimáissusia 0,4	
		Rekommanderet pakke <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Værdipakke <input type="checkbox"/>	
KGN 2136 100.000-7-78 BARFOD & ICP		Beløb i hele kroner: 14.12.82-0700	

Package delivery card, Holsteinsborg, Greenland to Faaborg, Denmark, 11 November 1982



While wearing the 'spirit mask', the local shaman performs a sacred ceremony. Beating a hide drum while chanting induces a trance-like state and allows the shaman to communicate and interact in the supernatural realm, invoking good spirits on behalf of his people.

