

# Dancing couple

## Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 84.36.1 

Type: sculpture; wooden sculpture; carving

Date of production: 20th century

Place of production: Bali, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

Materials/Techniques: wood, carved

Dimensions: height: 29 cm  
width: 16.5 cm

The harmonious blend of geometric and organic forms is the hallmark of Balinese art deco. In addition to the characteristic elements of traditional dances, such as the arm position, the outstretched elbow, the kneeling pose of the female figure, leaning slightly forward, the popular motifs of the "art deco" style are clearly visible: the elongation of body parts, sometimes exaggerated, deformed stylization or direct aestheticization: the angle closed by the arms and the right leg of the male dancer, as if to build a grid around the woman.

The Balinese art deco movement dates from around the 1930s to the 1970s, with the Pita Maha (1936-1942) school, a group of artists working for the Balinese sculptural revival, and associated primarily with two Western painters living in Bali, Rudolf Bonnet and Walter Spies, being of particular importance.

