

FUNGUS ART: BEAR IN WOODS

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: Unknown

Title: Fungus Art: Bear in Woods

Date: 1975

Quantity: 1/2 cubic foot (one box)

Identification: Folk Art

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Fungus art

Places: Lake George (Warren) NY
Adirondack Mountains

Form/Genre: Three-dimensional polychrome art piece.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Fungus Art: Bear in Woods
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated to the Folklife Center by the Caldwell Lake George Library 2018.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, November 2018.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT

A lakeside scene has been painted on a fungus, called an artist polypore or artist conk.

The fungus measures 15.5 inches wide, 9.5 inches tall and 5 inches deep.

The scene shows an animal, probably a bear, on a piece of driftwood in the center. In the background is a lake with two mountain peaks behind it. To the left of the bear is a pine tree, to the right a peninsula juts into the lake.

The painting is signed and dated. The date is "75" presumably 1975. The artist's initials appear to be M.H.S. The M and the H share an upright stroke. The artist has not been identified.

The most common way of creating a picture on an artist polypore is by scratching the under surface of the fungus. The lines scratched turn brown on the white surface and create the picture. In this case, the surface has been painted rather than scratched.

Accompanying the piece is a photograph of the piece as displayed in the Lake George library. In the picture are Shirley McFerson, Lake George librarian (gesturing), Jennifer Ferris (far right) and another, unidentified, woman.

Related collections:

2 other fungus art pieces