

Canoe Prow, (New Guinea) 430#



CINDY RINNE

Sea

Tidal rhythm guides the log roughed out by an adz.

Fire to seal.

Artisan hands carve in relief two figures

on the large prow board with an asymmetrical splash board.

Remember ancestors for protection,
speed, and power.

Snake, white heron, and snail designs.

Colored with white paints made of heated and crushed Kula shells,
red is a natural earth pigment and black is a combination of charred
coconut husk and banana stalk cap.

The men from Trobriand Island watch the movement of the waves
take the Kula Canoe on the sea trade routes for wealth and conversation
that keep the tribes connected.

Sky blends into sea as silver, forms a cup,
holds sensitive voices.

I walk on the crusty sand and pick up
the Finger Limpet left by the undercurrent.

Still complete after the journey of salt.

I listen to the whisper of the ocean inside my head.

This circular home with coarse radiating ribs can't exist
without the ways of water.

Illustrations

Canoe Prow by Cindy Rinne

The Sea

by Pamela A. Babusci

