

Head Ornament, New Guinea, 20th Cent. 465#

CINDY RINNE

Sky

Big Men show off with the plumage of the cassowary.
Coarse feathers secured to a tight, woven fiber base.
Surrounds the face.
Several wives help raise food leaving many bachelors.

Drums thump, voices chant and bodies dance
in the wet sunlight. *Big Men* and Chiefs compete in a feast.
They remember Kambell who made them and the moon.
Clouds pushed up the sky leaving the earth climate
behind.
The constellation Crux and daytime shadows guide them.

I sit above the city.
In daylight I can see sixty miles to the edge
of the indistinct earth and a slice of the sea.
Tonight I follow the spectrum of city lights and celestial beings
in moonlight. Doves drift by in a breath.
Beetles look like lightning bugs of my youth
as they glow in an eerie green light.
Fireflies like shifting constellations.
I used to take the lights
off their bodies.
Then put them in a jar as lanterns
in the heavy summer darkness.



Illustration by Cindy Rinne