

Basic Detail Report



Greek shadow puppet (karagiozis)

Date

ca. 1950s-1970s

Medium

Vellum, paint, metal, paper

Description

Puppet is still in original, plastic packaging. Figure of a male character with olive skin and black hair and mustache. Figure wearing blue dress and tall white boots. Karagiozis was popularized in Greece during the Ottoman Empire. The origin is unclear, and Turkey has a comparable tradition (Karagoz), which in 2009 was named

to UNESCO's list of intangible heritage, causing objections from Greek officials who claim karagiozis as their own. Karagiozis performances are generally either historical or comic and they include certain stock characters, including this one, Barba Giorgos. The main character, Karagiozis, provides satirical commentary about current social and political issues. It was repopularized 1910s-1950s when there was great social unrest in Greece.

Dimensions

15 3/16 × 6 5/16 in. (38.5 × 16 cm)