

Basic Detail Report



Amabie-chan ()

Date

2021

Primary Maker

Hisanobu Yamaga

Medium

kazuno (deer antler) inlaid with buffalo horn

Description

Japanese netsuke figure of Amabie, a fish like Yokai spirit. Resembles a woman's face, but has fish scales and tail as feet. Amabie is a yokai that wards off pandemics. An

amabie sighting was recorded in a single kawara-ban, a Japanese news sheet and an early form of pop media, in 1846. The text describes a strange nocturnal glow in an inlet off the coast of Higo province (modern-day Kumamoto prefecture, on Kyushu Island. It was investigated by an unnamed official, who drew a creature that he encountered, and reported what it said: "I am Amabie, who lives in the sea. Many provinces will experience an abundant harvest for the next six years. At the same time, disease will spread. Hurry and show my image for a beneficial result."" ... and then it sank back into the watery depths. Since then, amabie images are said to have the power to conquer the plague.

Dimensions

5.0 x 2.8 x 2.7 cm