Vanuatu attributed to Lionel

Batnaave (stem of banana) c. 1971

South coast of Malekula, Vanuatu

Vegetable clay, tree fern, wood, ochre, boar tusks

Positioned for display in a high black metal plinth frame with a black metal top, resting on a thin piece of dark, honey-coloured wood in a glass case.

A triangular sculpture of a head, or multiple heads, from the neck up, warm brown coloured clay decorated in dark brown and white. A 4 sided face, wider at the bottom than at the top, with white, tactile tusks rising out , a protruding triangular nose, pupil-less, almond shaped eyes, pronounced white eyebrows, a conical head and 4 painted thin poles rising from the corners of each face’s eyebrows to above its head. Each pole painted in alternating black, white and brown thick stripes with white tassles hanging from their ends.

The faces are decorated in black, white and brown stripes and dots. The conical top , beneath the poles is dark brown, with white and brown rings over the top.