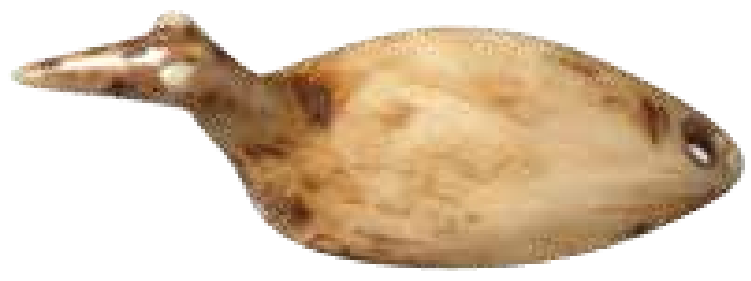


THE THOMSON COLLECTION

**HISTORIC IVORIES FROM
CANADA AND ALASKA**



BIRDS AND DOLLS

Since the Thule period (1200–1800 A.D.), Indigenous Peoples throughout the Arctic have engaged in a form of gambling in which a number of small flat-bottomed bird carvings are dropped onto a flat surface. Those landing in an upright position are scored.

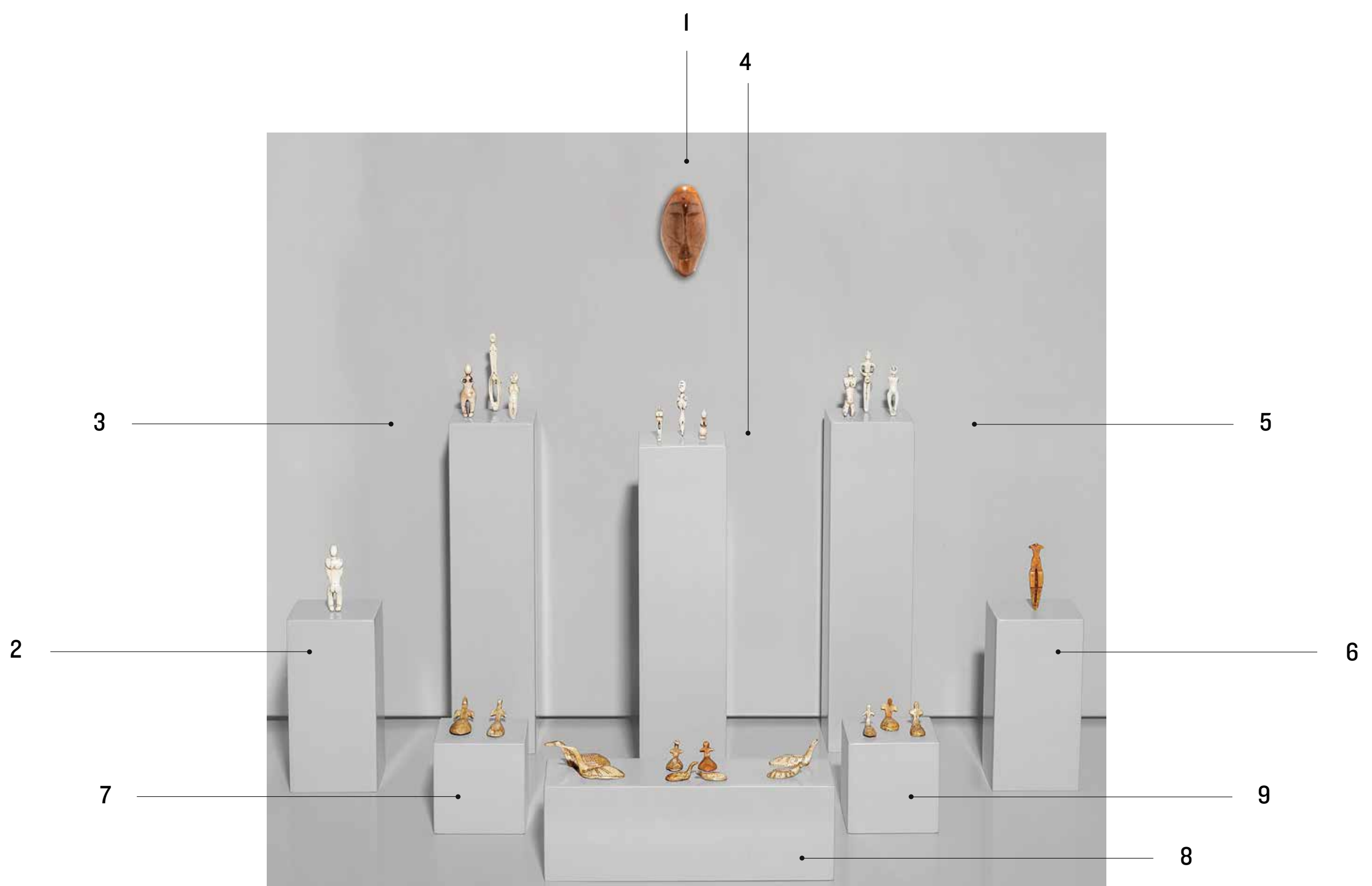
Small simplified human figure carvings have been created in Alaska since the Punuk period (600–1200 A.D.). Though often interpreted as toys, they may also have held some spiritual significance.



ANCIENT ART

The Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic have a long history of producing sophisticated works of art. Highly stylized human figure carvings of the Okvik culture (200 B.C. – 100 A.D.) on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, exhibit a monumental quality that belies their diminutive stature.

HISTORIC IVORIES FROM CANADA AND ALASKA



1 Okvik Artist Once Known

Head of a Human, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

I03697

2-6 Late Dorset and Thule Artists Once Known

Human Figures, Northern Canada/Greenland

1000–1800 A.D.

ivory

I08373, I08374, I08393, I08366, I08388, I08335, I08389,
I08333, I08365, I08334, I08346

7-9 Late Dorset and Thule Artists Once Known

Gaming Figures, Northern Canada/Greenland

1000–1800 A.D.

ivory

I08357, I08350, I08358, I08355, I08354, I08360, I08349,
I08361, I08356, I08359, I08352, I08351, I08353

HISTORIC IVORIES FROM CANADA AND ALASKA



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Figure, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

103714



Thule Artist Once Known

Human Effigy Needle Case, Alaska

1200–1800 A.D.

walrus ivory

103709



Okvik Artist Once Known

Bear Head Toggle, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

103699



Punuk (?) Artist Once Known

Whale Effigy Ladle, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

500–1200 A.D.

whalebone

103706



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Pail Handle, Western Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory

108286



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Animal Effigy Drag Handle, Western Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory, animal hide

103702



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Cup, Western Alaska

19th century

ivory, pigment

108404



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Head, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska
200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

108312



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Figural Ornament, Western Alaska

19th century

ivory

108405



Old Bering Sea III Artist Once Known

Walrus Effigy Toggle, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

300–500 A.D.

walrus ivory

103713



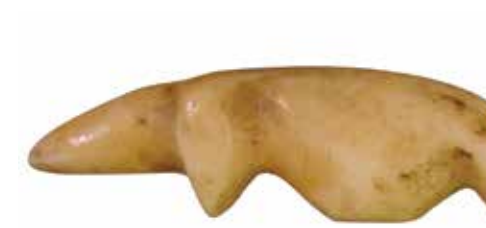
Punuk Artist Once Known

Polar Bear Effigy, Little Diomed Island, Alaska

500–1200 A.D.

walrus ivory, baleen

103701



Thule Artist Once Known

Bear Effigy, Igloolik, Canada

1400–1800 A.D.

walrus ivory

108347



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Human Figure on Bear, Western Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory

108329



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Seal Effigy, Western Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory

108394



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Mouse Effigy, Western Alaska

19th century

ivory

118784



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Torso, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska
200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

103711



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Head, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska
200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

103698



Old Bering Sea III Artist Once Known

Bear Effigy Toggle, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska
300–500 A.D.

walrus ivory

103705



Yup'ik Artist Once Known

Seal Dart Foreshafts, Lower Kuskokwim River, Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory

103703, 103704



Ipiutaq Artist Once Known

Bear Bucket Handle, Alaska

100–600 A.D.

ivory

2003/1714



Thule Artist Once Known

Human Figure, Western Alaska (?)

1200–1800 A.D.

walrus ivory

103710



Okvik Artist Once Known

Bow Drill Mouthpiece, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

108370



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Figure, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C. – 100 A.D.

walrus ivory

108326



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Walrus Effigy, Western Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory, pigment

108369



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Bear Effigy, Western Alaska

19th century

ivory

108402



Thule Artist Once Known

Animal Head Toggle, Igloodik, Canada

1400–1800 A.D.

walrus ivory

108348



Old Bering Sea II Artist Once Known

Seal, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

100–300 A.D.

ivory

2003/1713



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Wael Effigies, Western Alaska

19th century

walrus ivory, pigment

108330, 108331



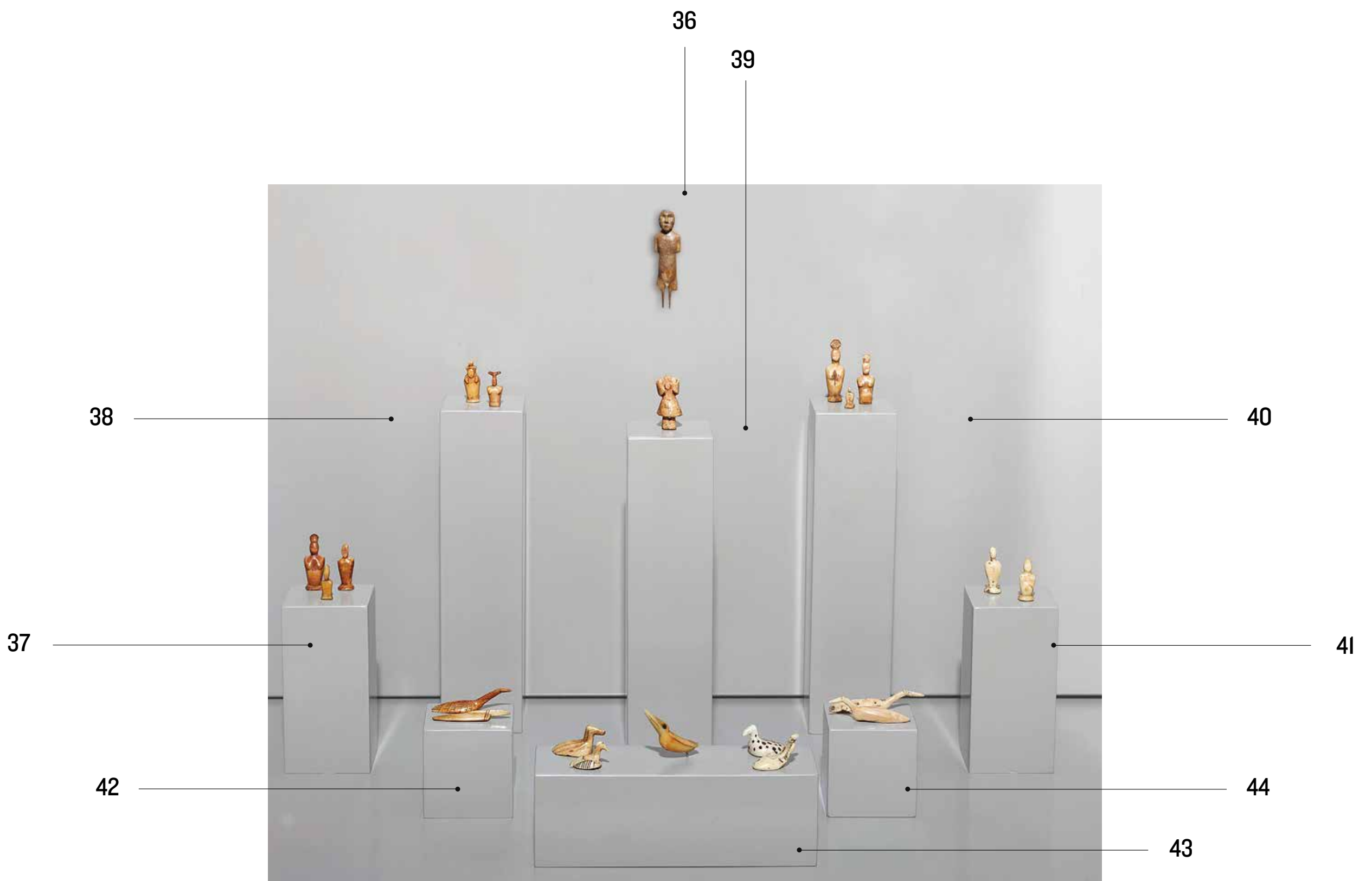
Thule Artist Once Known

Comb, Mainland Alaska

1000–1800 A.D.

ivory

2003/1715



36 Punuk Artist Once Known

Human Effigy Glass Comb, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

500–1200 A.D.

walrus ivory

I03712

37-42 Thule and Siberian Yup'ik Artists Once Known

Human Figures, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska and Southwest Alaska

1200–1900 A.D.

ivory

I08381, I08338, I08337, I08378, I08380, I08375, I08343, I08387, I08290, I08382, I08339

42-44 Thule and Inupiaq Artists Once Known

Gaming Birds and Gaming Figures, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, Western Alaska and Central Arctic

1200–1900 A.D.

ivory

I08340, I08299, I08301, I18780, I18781, I08403, I08371, I08347, I08345

THE THOMSON COLLECTION

**INDIGENOUS ART:
NORTH AMERICA,
AFRICA, OCEANIA**

**INDIGENOUS ART:
NORTH AMERICA, AFRICA, OCEANIA**



Punuk Artist Once Known

Bear Effigy, Western Alaska

500–1200 A.D.

walrus ivory

103707



Yoruba Artist Once Known

Horse and Rider, Nigeria

19th century

ivory

107963



Lega Artist Once Known

Spoon in Shape of a Human Figure,
Democratic Republic of the Congo

early 20th century

ivory

107975



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Figure, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C.–100 A.D.

walrus ivory

108327



Luba Artist Once Known

Female Figure (Pendant), Democratic Republic
of the Congo

circa 1850–1880

ivory

108236



Tonga Artist Once Known

Female Figure, Oceania

18th century

marine ivory

107968



Yoruba Artist Once Known

Mother and Child, Owo Kingdom, Nigeria

16th–17th century

ivory

29416



Thule Artist Once Known

Polar Bear Effigy, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska (?)

1200–1800 A.D.

ivory

108313



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Head, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C.–100 A.D.

walrus ivory

103708



Thule Artist Once Known

Polar Bear Effigy, Alaska

1200–1800 A.D.

ivory

108447



Rarotonga Artist Once Known

Male Figure, Cook Islands, Oceania

before 1835

wood

107960



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Snuff Box, Western Alaska

late 19th century

walrus ivory, pigment

108448



Luba Artist Once Known

Female Half-Figure (Pendant), Democratic Republic of the Congo

19th century

ivory

108238



Artist Once Known

Pipe Tamper with Head of a Man, Africa (?)

late 19th century

ivory

107976



Artist Once Known

Pair of Spoons
circa 1880–1910
coin silver
103813



Artist Once Known

Bracelet
circa 1880–1910
22 karat gold
103810



Fiji Artist Once Known

Necklace, Oceania
circa 1850–1880
whaletooth
107962



Artist Once Known

Bracelet
circa 1880–1910
22 karat gold
103811



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Head, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska
200 B.C.–100 A.D.
walrus ivory
103700



Luba Artist Once Known

Female Half-Figure, Democratic Republic
of the Congo
late 19th – early 20th century
ivory
107971



Kongo Artist Once Known

Fly-Whisk Handle with Male Figure,
Democratic Republic of the Congo
early 20th century
ivory
107973



Yoruba Artist Once Known

Female Figure, Nigeria or Benin
19th century
ivory
108237



Luba Artist Once Known

Female Figure (Pendant), Democratic Republic of the Congo

early 20th century

ivory

107972



Thule Artist Once Known

Polar Bear Effigy, Alaska

1200–1800 A.D.

walrus ivory

108400



Okvik Artist Once Known

Human Figure, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

200 B.C.–100 A.D.

walrus ivory

103696



Luba Artist Once Known

Female Figure (Pendant), Democratic Republic of the Congo

circa 1850–1880

ivory

108236



Yoruba Artist Once Known

Female Figure, Owo Kingdom, Nigeria

16th–17th century

ivory

107961



Kongo Artist Once Known

Monther and Child (Staff Finial), Democratic Republic of the Congo (?)

19th century

ivory

107965



Haida Artist Once Known

Sea Captain, Haida Gwaii, Northwest Coast

circa 1860

wood, ivory, pigment

107967



Pende Artist Once Known

Miniature Mask (Pendant), Democratic Republic of the Congo

20th century

ivory

107966



Thule Artist Once Known

Polar Bear Effigy, Alaska

1400–1800 A.D.

ivory

108368

THE THOMSON COLLECTION

**MASKS AND SHAMANIC
IMPLEMENTS**

SHAMANIC IMPLEMENTS



Tlingit Artist Once Known

Shaman's Amulet, Southeast Alaska

circa 1840

sperm whale tooth, abalone shell

103809



Tsimshian Artist Once Known

Dagger Hilt, Northwest Coast

circa 1840

ivory, abalone shell

103805



Tsimshian Artist Once Known

Shaman's Amulet, Northwest Coast

circa 1840

ivory, abalone shell

29420



Gitksan (?) Artist Once Known

Shaman's Amulet, Northwest Coast

circa 1790-1820

ivory

103808



Tsimshian Artist Once Known

Soul Catcher, Northwest Coast

circa 1790-1820

bone, abalone shell

103803



Tlingit Artist Once Known

Head Scratcher, Southeast Alaska

18th century

bone, pigment

108383



Tlingit Artist Once Known

Head Scratcher, Southeast Alaska

18th century

bone, pigment

108383



Haida Artist Once Known

Dagger Hilt, Northwest Coast

circa 1860

ivory, abalone shell, glass beads

103807



Artist Once Known

Shaman's Cup, Southeast Alaska

circa 1780–1810

sperm whale tooth

103804



Haida Artist Once Known

Ladle, Haida Gwaii, Northwest Coast

circa 1850–1870

sheep horn, ivory, abalone shell

108081

MASKS

Masks have been used as a means of identity transformation in the Arctic since ancient times. Through ritual, the spirit world manifests itself within the everyday world. These masks offer a glimpse into a complex system of spiritual beliefs.



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Whale Transformation Mask, King Island / Point Hope, Alaska (?)

18th – early 19th century

wood, pigment

108322



Aleut Artist Once Known

Mask, Aleutian Islands, Alaska

18th century

wood

108367



Inupiaq Artist Once Known

Transformation Mask, Point Hope, Alaska

19th century

wood, pigments

108362



Thule Artist Once Known

Hunting Visor, Western Alaska

17th–18th century

wood, walrus ivory, vegetal fiber

108069



Thule Artist Once Known

Mask, King Island / Point Hope, Alaska (?)

1200–1800 A.D.

wood

108328



Artist Once Known

Wooden pigmented Alaskan “twisted face” mask

date unknown

wooden mask painted with red pigment

125950



Chilkat Tlingit Artist Once Known

Chilkat Tlingit Pattern Board

circa 1875

wood and pigments pattern board

125882



Tlingit Artist Once Known

Portrait Mask, Southeast Alaska

circa 1860

wood, pigment, copper, sealskin, mirror

103801



Haida Artist Once Known

Haida Polychrome Wood Doll,
Attributed to Jenna Cass

early 19th century

carved doll made of wood, pigments,
cloth, hair and spruce gum

126468



Haida Artist Once Known

Portrait Mask, Haida Gwaii, Northwest Coast

circa 1840

wood, pigments, hair

103800



Tsimshian Artist Once Known

Portrait Mask, Northwest Coast

circa 1820–1840

wood, pigments, hair

103802