

Old Bat Spirit Carving, Latmul, Papua New Guinea.

The latmul are a large ethnic group of about 10,000 people inhabiting some two-dozen politically autonomous villages along the middle Sepik River in Papua New Guinea.

The communities are roughly grouped according to dialect of the latmül language as well as sociocultural affinities. The latmul are best known for their art, men's houses, male initiation, elaborate totemic systems, and a famous ritual called naven.

The figure is carved from wood, painted using ochre with striking lines. An expressive features typical of the region.

H - 46cm W - 13cm D - 4cm

