The Angakok Spirit Mask

Shaman and drum

The 'Angakok' (Shaman) are the central figure in Inuit spiritualism. Shaman mediate between the world of man and the realm of spirits and the 'spirit mask' is a key part of that task.

Spirits in many forms

Masks are made of driftwood, animal hide, bone, pigments, feathers and walrus ivory.

Shaman among the animal spirits

Wooden mask painted black

Distorted human features allow a Shaman to enter the spirit realm.

Kalaallit mask; Package delivery card, Holsteinsborg, Greenland to Faaborg, Denmark, 11 November 1982

Kalaallit dancer

While wearing the 'spirit mask', the local shaman performs a sacred ceremony. Beating a hide drum while chanting induces a trance-like state and allows the shaman to communicate and interact in the supernatural realm, invoking good spirits on behalf of his people.

Kalaallit drummer