Nepal, Carved Wooden Mask Circa 1900.



320 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 17

Height : 24

Depth : 12

Description

Nepal, Carved wooden mask circa 1900. This carved wooden mask comes from Nepal where it was used in local rituals or ceremonies. The style is that of traditional Himalayan masks, where animist and Hindu culture strongly influences the shapes and expressions of the sculpted faces. The mask has angular and exaggerated features: a wide toothed smile, a protruding nose and hollowed-out eyes that reinforce its expressive and theatrical appearance. The contours are accentuated by brutal incisions, marking the details of the face, in particular the eyebrow arches and the smile folds. The side part is decorated with spiral motifs, typical of Nepalese symbolic decorations, probably a reference to the curves of nature or to protective deities. The ears are also oversized, a frequent feature in

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representations of deities or protective figures in Himalayan art. Its dark, almost black patina is evidence of the old wood and possible exposure to incense smoke or traditional altars. The visible wear on the surfaces confirms a long ritual or decorative use. This type of mask was used during masked dances for religious festivals, particularly animist practices. This type of mask does not only represent a face, but a protective figure supposed to ward off evil spirits and bring prosperity. Approximately 24 x 17 x 12cm