



Pectoral Ornament For Chief Fofona - Papua New Guinea



400 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 48

Height : 42

Description

This body ornament, called a *fofona*, is an emblematic woven piece of clothing of the Benabena people, native to the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Made from naturally dyed plant fibers, it is embellished with nassa shells and two imposing cowrie shells carefully sewn by the women. Given to young men after their initiation, it is also used as a combat ornament, often held between the teeth by warriors.

Traditionally worn on the chest or sometimes on the back, the *fofona* plays an essential role in ceremonies and is particularly important in marriage exchanges, serving as a dowry. Its value was notably enhanced by the presence of white cowrie shells, a prized currency that circulated through a barter network connecting several tribes before reaching the Highlands. Entirely

Dealer

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This strange idea of beauty

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handmade, this object is made using string and dyed with natural pigments, then decorated with shells and cowries sewn on each side.REGION: Papua New GuineaMATERIAL: Shells, plant fibersPERIOD: early 20th centuryDIMENSIONS: 42 x 48 cm (Sold without base)