



Seated Female Statuette - Fipa - Western Tanzania - Late 19th / Early 20th Century - Primitive Art



600 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Length : 10,5 cm

Width : 4 cm

Height : 18 cm

Description
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Statuette representing a seated female figure, hands resting on her thighs, the body entirely adorned with incised scarifications, particularly visible on the arms, legs and torso. The sculptural intensity of this work is reinforced by the monumentality of the face: a wide open mouth, deeply carved, gives the whole a striking expressiveness. The gaze is accentuated by inlays of white glass beads, which animate the figure with a lively, almost inhabited presence. The whole exudes a rare plastic force, between formal abstraction and stylized realism. Wood, very old shiny brown patina, mark of use, white glass beads. Fipa, western region of Tanzania, early 20th century Dimensions: 15.3 x 10.5 cm x 4 cm - total height 18 cm with the base. Provenance: former collection in northern France Sold with

Dealer
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**GALERIE OCARINA**

Art précolombien, Archéologie, Arts premiers

Mobile : 0630229738

15 grand rue

Issigeac 24560

certificate of authenticity from the expert Serge

Reynes, guarantee of origin and period. \*

Shipping costs on estimate. This statuette belongs

to the very rare typology of small Fipa works

depicting seated figures. Used in a ritual context

probably linked to initiation or the transmission

of knowledge, it testifies to the symbolic

refinement of this people established in the

highlands of western Tanzania. The body

scarifications, omnipresent here, reflect an

identity aesthetic specific to Fipa women, where

each incision carried a meaning linked to status,

fertility, or beauty. By its formal intensity and

expressive power, this work stands out as an

exceptional example of female ritual sculpture in

East Africa.