



Dan Mask With Metal Teeth - Ivory Coast / Liberia, Mid-20th Century



1 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Height : 22 cm

Description

Dan Mask with Inset Metal Teeth - Côte d'Ivoire / Liberia

Mid-20th Century or Earlier

Wood, Metal Inlay

Height:22 cm, width 13 cm

Provenance: Private Collection, Europe

This striking Dan mask, carved from dense hardwood and adorned with inset metal teeth, exemplifies the refined sculptural tradition of the Dan people from Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

Featuring a narrow oval face with deeply recessed slit eyes, sharply arched brows, and a taut, stylized mouth embedded with five jagged metal teeth, the mask conveys an intense, almost ascetic presence.

The interior reveals pronounced hand-carving marks, adze strokes, and age-appropriate wear,

Dealer

Art Classique

curiosités, art premier et Asiatique

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attesting to traditional fabrication techniques and potential ritual use. Pierced holes around the perimeter suggest it was once adorned with fiber attachments or worn during masquerades. The rich dark patina, built up through age and handling, further enhances its sculptural depth and character.

Masks such as this one were traditionally worn during ceremonial performances to embody -- spiritual entities representing moral or social authority. The unusually narrow eye slits and grimacing metal teeth may indicate an association with a warrior, disciplinary, or protective spirit rather than the more common peaceful or didactic roles.

Rare for its minimalist elegance and expressive restraint, this mask bears strong affinities with museum and collection examples (cf. Sainsbury Centre, Sotheby's, Christie's) and offers an exceptional addition to any serious collection of African tribal art.