



Carved Drum (ngoma) - Luba-maniema / Zela, Democratic Republic Of Congo



750 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Height : 34 cm

Description

Carved Drum (Ngoma) - Luba-Maniema / Zela, Democratic Republic of Congo
Wood, hide
Height: 34 cm
A finely carved kelp-shaped drum with a cylindrical foot and rounded body, surmounted by a hide membrane fixed with small nails. The corpus is richly decorated with incised geometric bands of chevrons and triangles, interspersed with two high-relief anthropomorphic figures. Each figure displays a diamond-shaped torso with prominent breasts, hands resting on the abdomen, and a stylized face with closed eyes and incised brows, reflecting the distinctive idiom of the Zela subgroup of the Luba-Maniema peoples. The reddish heavy hardwood, combined with the bold geometric ornament and simplified figural carving, points to production in the Maniema region, stylistically

Dealer

Art Classique

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close to both the Luba and Kusu traditions. Such drums (ngoma) played a role not only as musical instruments but also as ritual and prestige objects, associated with communication, initiation rites, and the invocation of ancestors. Provenance: Private collection, Europe. Condition: Age-related wear, cracks and patina consistent with traditional use; minor losses to the rim of the hide.