



Fire-breathing Helmet Mask Senufo People Ivory Coast Wood H. 80 Cm African Art

1 100 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 80 cm

Width : 32 cm

Height : 40 cm

Description

Fire-breathing mask Senufo people Ivory Coast The composition of this beautiful poniugo mask is quite classic, combining a hyena head with a crocodile jaw framed by warthog tusks and topped with long antelope horns. A hornbill and a chameleon - important animals in Senufo mythology - are here sculpted in the round on the forehead. Despite its menacing appearance, this type of mask had a protective vocation, associated with death, sometimes intervening in the initiatory framework of the poro, sometimes in funerary rituals. Its main function was to wage war against the evil forces that threaten the well-being of society. Although the name poniugo means "poro head" or "funeral head" depending on the version, Westerners nicknamed them "fire-eaters" because these masks always

Dealer

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danced at nightfall, the dancer blowing on embers held in front of his mouth to make sparks fly.
Wood Length 80 cm, Height 40 cm Width 32 cm
Good general condition, usual indigenous restorations Provenance: Collected in situ by Mr. N...between 1931 and 1935 Beautiful old example of a so-called "fire-eater" mask. Interior patina showing traces of repeated wearing.