



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Figurative African Axe From The 'luba' Tribe Of Congo - Africa - Late 19th Century



4 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 43,5 cm

Description

Hardwood, wrought iron, patina from use. Late 19th - early 20th century. This elegant ceremonial axe (prestige axe) comes from the artistic tradition of the Luba people of southeastern Congo. It is distinguished by a long, tapered handle surmounted by a finely sculpted female head. The face displays the characteristic features of the Luba style: deeply incised almond-shaped eyes, pronounced brow ridges, delicately modeled lips, and an elaborate hairstyle composed of regular striations. The female figure symbolizes memory, wisdom, and spiritual authority, central themes of Luba cosmology. The long handle shows an old, lustrous patina, enriched by prolonged use. The lower part features a wide, hollowed butt, typical of Luba prestige axes. The iron blade, inserted laterally, is decorated with

Dealer

Bergmans Scott Fine Arts

Tribal art (African) , Asian art, European art and curiosities

Mobile : 0032475733376

Fax : scottbergmans@hotmail.com

Limburg

Lommel 3920

engraved geometric patterns of lozenges and crosshatching, attesting to the refined craftsmanship of the region's blacksmiths. This type of object was not intended for combat. It was an insignia of power worn by chiefs, dignitaries, or royal emissaries during ceremonies, dances, and diplomatic occasions. The quality of the carving, the depth of the patina, and the overall harmony give this piece an exceptional presence. E.g., Belgian colonial collection; E.g., private collection, Netherlands