Portrait Mask, Baoulé People, Ivory Coast 02



800 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Height : 26 cm

Description

A face mask depicting a face of great gentleness. This type of mask is called an mblo, or portrait. It represents a person who has contributed to the well-being of the community and is thus celebrated and honored through festivities. The features are idealized to meet traditional criteria: a high forehead (intelligence and spiritual openness), a smooth and lustrous surface (a healthy person), half-closed eyelids and a downward gaze (a sign of respect), and elegant scarification and headdress (self-respect and respect for others), etc. This example presents an oval and symmetrical face. The mouth is small and surmounted by a long, thin nose. The bridge of the nose is marked by a lozenge from which the eyebrows extend. They frame half-closed, almond-shaped eyes. The forehead is high and is

Dealer

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topped by a headdress made of five chignons. Baoulé people, Ivory Coast.Wood with a patina from use (slight crack at the back and at eye level), black lacquer. Height: 26 cm. Mid-20th century. Provenance: Ex-French collection