



Antique Chokwe Mask "mwana Pwo" - Congo / Angola - Late 19th - Early 20th Century

1 600 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Height : 20.5 cm

Description

Antique Chokwe "Mwana Pwo" Mask - Congo / Angola - late 19th - early 20th century

Antique ritual mask attributed to the Chokwe (Tchokwe) people, from the Congo / Angola region, dating to the late 19th - early 20th century.

This mask belongs to the Mwana Pwo type, representing an idealized female ancestral figure. Carved from dense hardwood, the mask displays an elongated and finely modeled face, characterized by a high, subtly heart-shaped forehead, almond-shaped pierced eyes, and an open mouth with kaolin-whitened teeth. Traces of white kaolin (phemba) are also visible around the eyes and ears.

The Mwana Pwo mask embodies female beauty, fertility, wisdom, and moral balance within

Dealer

Art Classique

curiosités, art premier et Asiatique

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Chokwe culture. Such masks were traditionally worn during ritual dances and initiation ceremonies, often performed by male dancers honoring female ancestors and social ideals.

An important feature is the presence of an original vegetal fiber and textile headdress, integrated into the edge of the mask, indicating authentic ritual use rather than later decorative production. The surface exhibits a rich, old patina, with wear, small cracks, and handling marks consistent with age and ceremonial use.

Dimensions:

Wooden mask height: approx. 20.5 cm (excluding fibers)

Condition:

Good authentic condition with age-related wear and old repairs; no modern repainting observed.