



## Demon, Devil - Antique Japanese Carved Wooden Mask - Noh Theatre Mask - Sculpture

295 EUR



Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

### Description

Japan, late Edo period - early Meiji period (18th-19th century). Antique Japanese mask carved from lightweight wood, likely intended for Noh theater or a related ritual or theatrical repertoire. The face presents a deliberately ambiguous expression, oscillating between inner tension, unease, and silent introspection. The features do not allow for the definitive identification of a male or female figure, this ambiguity being entirely consistent with certain liminal figures in Japanese theater, situated between the human, the spirit, and a state of possession. The eyes, highlighted by remnants of old gilding, lend the gaze a disturbing depth and reinforce the overall psychological intensity. The slightly open mouth reveals the teeth, accentuating an impression of suspended breath,

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characteristic of masks intended to be animated by performance, light, and movement. The sculpture is handmade, with an old hollowed-out interior and visible tool marks. The original polychromy survives in vestiges, now patinated and softened by time. The wear is consistent with an antique object that has likely been worn or handled. The lateral perforations for the cords are old. This mask does not strictly correspond to a specifically named canonical type from the best-known Noh repertoire, which in no way diminishes its interest. On the contrary, it belongs to those rarer productions, with an expressive or intermediate function, where the character's identity remains intentionally open. A distinctive object with a strong presence, intended for a discerning collector, a lover of Japanese ritual arts, traditional theater, or expressive antique sculptures. Dimensions: Height: 17 cm  
Condition: wear, old patina, losses and alterations consistent with age. All deliveries are made via DHL Express only.