Mask Representing Heheya - Hopi Culture, Arizona - Circa 1920-1930



8 000 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

MASK representing HeheyaThe Kachina messenger of the rain gods Hopi culture, Arizona Circa 1920-1930Leather, wood, horsehair, plant fibers, and pigmentsH: 13.4 in; W: 17.4 inHelmet mask made of leather decorated with polychrome pigments. Heheya is recognizable by his blue-green mask, his wooden ears, his mouth made of fabric, and his schematic nose--probably a corn cob covered with cotton. These elements are all pigmented red--a color also used to outline the circular eye holes. An inverted blue triangle is painted from the top of the nose to the cheeks. The lower edge of the mask has a rigid structure made of braided plant fibers--the remaining cords remind us of its role: to support the deity's costume. On the reverse side, the important symbol of the sacred calendar, also known as the

Dealer

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horizon calendar, of the mesa dances is painted in red ochre and black on a white background.Heheya, the kachina messenger of the rain gods, appears during the third mesa.
Illustrative image: Hopi rain ceremony, village of Shungopavi, Arizona, United States, circa 1870 and 1900.Text and photos © FCP
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