Bust Of Hemba-kusu, Drc



1 100 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Height : 34 cm

Description

Statue depicting a male bust. The arms are detached from the torso, and the hands rest on the hips. The neck is broad and powerful, supporting a head with an introspective expression. The mouth, slightly protruding, hints at a faint smile. A long nose extending from the forehead structures the face. It is framed by two large, almond-shaped, drooping eyes. The eye slits are highlighted by small copper nails, reinforcing the protective and symbolic dimension of the work. The cylindrical headdress extends at the back into a quadrangular volume typical of Kusu productions. This statue, called "Kakudji," still retains its original receptacle at the top, designed to hold magical-ritual substances of the nkisi type. Textile elements made of plant fibers and leather are also present, encircling the base of the

Dealer

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bust. These statues served a divinatory and protective function. Two small holes have been made at the corners of the eyes. This sculpture offers a fine example of Hemba art with a strong Kusu influence. Hemba-Kusu people, Kamina region, Katenga, DRC. Wood with a patina from use (cracks), copper, plant fibers, leather. Height: 34 cm. Early 20th century. Provenance: - Collected in situ by a former Belgian colonist: Augustin Becquet (1899-1974). He was an agricultural engineer, Director at INEAC, and mining engineer at UMHK (Union Minière du Haut Katanga). In 1921, he was sent to the Belgian Congo. - Formerly in a Belgian collection.