



"nganga Ngombo" Mask, Pende People, Drc



1 300 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Height : 31

Description

A face mask depicting a face covered in yellow pigment. The brow ridges form a heart shape with the lower part of the face. The half-closed eyes gaze downwards. A thin, upturned nose sits above an open mouth, revealing teeth. Attachment holes are present on the chin. The upper part of the face is composed of a large, domed forehead with a vertical scarification that connects to the bridge of the nose. The mask is surmounted by a braided raffia headdress from which raffia braids descend. This type of mask, rather rare in the Pende corpus, is called "Nganga Ngombo." It represents the diviner-healer. There are two variations, one male and one female; this one corresponds to the female model. Its distinctive feature lies in its superb yellow color, obtained from natural pigments. Yellow is often associated with heat

Dealer

Curiositas

Arts premiers, archéologie

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and the sun; it symbolizes energy, life, and growth. This color is not insignificant: it reinforces the healer's identity, a bearer of light, capable of restoring balance and dispelling the dark forces responsible for illness. Wood, pigments, raffia. Height: 31 cm (40 cm with the headdress). Pende people, DRC. Mid-20th century. Provenance: Formerly in a Belgian collection, formerly in the collection of Jean-Marc Desaive (1960-2023), Belgium.