



Sultan Kasser At Fort-lamy (chad) / Dated 1951 / Gustave Hervigo (1896-1993) / Watercolor



450 EUR

Signature : GUSTAVE HERVIGO (1896-1993)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Water color

Description

Sultan Kasser - Fort-Lamy (Chad) Gustave Hervigo (1896-1993) Fort-Lamy, January 19, 1951 Watercolor and ink on paper This remarkable watercolor depicts Sultan Kasser, an African dignitary, in Fort-Lamy, the former name of present-day N'Djamena, the capital of Chad. Founded by the French at the beginning of the 20th century and named in memory of Commander Amédée-François Lamy, the city quickly became a strategic center of French Equatorial Africa. The colonial authorities relied on local chiefs and sultans, key political figures responsible for administering the population and ensuring the stability of the territory. The figure depicted here belongs to this traditional elite. His ceremonial attire, consisting of a flowing ochre-red cloak and a richly colored headdress,

Dealer

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affirms his rank and authority. Several decorations, likely awarded by the French administration, adorn his chest--a common practice intended to recognize the loyalty or services rendered by local chiefs in the organization of the colonial territory. His direct gaze and hieratic posture lend the portrait a powerful psychological intensity. Through energetic drawing enhanced with watercolors in deep tones--reds, greens, and ochres--Gustave Hervigo manages to capture both the dignity and the imposing presence of the sovereign. A traveling painter and keen observer of the cultures he encountered, Hervigo offers here a rare glimpse into the traditional elites of Central Africa at a time when the region was becoming part of French colonial history. At once an ethnographic portrait, a historical document, and an expressive work of art, this sheet is a fine example of early 20th-century French Africanist art.