



Masuane Dagger, Ceram Island



9 750 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Length : 54 cm

Description

Collection Jean-Pierre

Dutilleux ANTHROPOMORPHIC HANDLE
AND ZOOMORPHIC FORK Masuane people,

Ceram Island (Seram), eastern Indonesia XXe

century - Field collection Carved wood, plant

fibers, metal Important ceremonial dagger

consisting of a handle carved in the round

depicting a stylized human figure with

streamlined features, arms folded against the

torso in a protective or contemplative posture. The

handle, deeply patinated, shows regular wear
consistent with ancient and prolonged handling.

A braided plant-fiber ligature joins the

scabbard. The carved wooden scabbard is one of

the most remarkable elements of the set. Its

openwork front features a complex geometric

decoration combining radiating motifs, stylized

Dealer

Collection

Rare & Unusual Objects

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anthropomorphic forms and symbolic elements probably linked to local beliefs. The lower part ends with an open-mouthed carved animal head, evoking a crocodile or a large varan - a recurring figure in the symbolic systems of Eastern Indonesian cultures, associated with protective power and the spiritual world. The metal blade, now oxidized, retains a simple, functional silhouette typical of Ceram ritual production, where the ceremonial and symbolic value of the object largely prevails over the technical sophistication of the forge. The ensemble develops a particularly strong sculptural presence, reinforced by the quality of the patina and the balance between human and zoomorphic forms. Ceremonial daggers from Ceram's Masuane groups occupy a singular place in the traditions of Eastern Indonesia. Well beyond their utilitarian function, they intervene as objects of prestige, markers of authority and mediators between the visible world and spiritual forces. The association of a protective anthropomorphic figure and a predatory animal figure reflects a dual conception of power: human mastery and supernatural power combined in a single object. By the richness of its carved iconography and its strongly embodied character, this specimen ranks among the most evocative ceremonial productions from the Ceram region. Length: 54 cm

PROVENANCE
Collection
Jean-Pierre Dutilleux
Collected in situ during field missions in eastern Indonesia.

PUBLISHED
Example reproduced in: TRIBES - The First People
VILO Editions
Below description
Poinard avec gaine sculptée/Dagger with carved sheath
The set is accompanied by:- a copy of the book,- as well as an original photographic print numbered and signed by Jean-Pierre Dutilleux, made during his field missions among the Ceram people. The dialogue between the object, its publication and the photographic testimony lends this ensemble a documentary and curatorial dimension that is particularly rare on the primitive arts

market. Look at this piece. Look at its form, its balance, its visual force. We do not create the work. We do not replace the artist. We don't claim to dictate what he wanted to express or convey. We simply attempt, with humility, to shed light on his journey: the one who saw it come into being, the one who carried it through time, the one who preserved, chose and passed it on. In turn, we accompany it on the road it still has to travel. For a work of art never belongs entirely to the person who owns it. It crosses looks, places and generations. Our role is simply to offer it the conditions to continue to be seen, understood, admired and passed on.