



## Abelam Statue, Papouasie



3 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Painted wood

### Description

Stunning ABELAM statue carved from hardwood and polychromed height 72 cm 19th-20th century The Abelam ceremonial house, or KOROMBO, was the village's ritual center. Behind the tall triangular façade, entirely covered in multicolored paint depicting ancestors and other spirits, was a space where the Abelam kept statues, paintings, and other ritual objects associated with their ancestors. This large male figure--NGGWALNDU--or "the father of the father" was also kept in the initiation houses. The art objects found in the KOROMBO represented clan spirits or supernatural beings. The NGGWALNDU were among the most powerful of all. Initiates were not informed of their identity until the end of the initiation, which could sometimes last more than thirty years. The

### Dealer

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NGGWALNDU are usually painted in bright colors, and at the top of the head, the hornbill is depicted. The hornbill was an important totem animal for the Abelams. Provenance: David LIVORNESE Collection: Michael HAMSON, U.S.A. Free shipping within the European Union 500 euros for international shipping