



Scrimshaw. Tabua Carved From A Sperm Whale Tooth. Fiji, 19th Century

570 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Ivory

Length : 16cm

Description

Tabua from the Fiji Islands (beautiful sperm whale tooth) fashioned into a pendant. L. 16 cm
Note: In Fijian culture, the tabua is a gift offered during negotiations or as an act of atonement (the people attribute supernatural power to these gifts). Sourced from beached sperm whales and sometimes from trade, these teeth are therefore rare. Thus, priests engrave names on them to bestow a kind of blessing. Over time, tabua have come to be used for weddings, birthdays, or funerals. The discovery and exploration of Polynesia gave rise to the European art of scrimshaw, which stems from this tradition of tabuas.

Dealer

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