



Dogon Equestrian Figure



2 400 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Height : hauteur : 27 cm (socle inclus).

Description

With a striking economy of means, this rare Dogon equestrian figure concentrates all the power of ancient Malian sculpture. Reduced to its essence, the composition combines the hieratic verticality of the rider with the compact presence of his mount in an intense and mystical balance. The cylindrical head, the soberly constructed face, and the powerfully condensed volumes endow the whole with a monumentality that far exceeds its actual dimensions. The deep, lustrous black patina, built up through ritual libations and handling, envelops the sculpture in an almost telluric presence. Despite the old loss of the right arm, the figure retains all its formal coherence and evocative power. This work comes from the collection of Christian Mattler, an architect who participated in the construction of the Tour

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Montparnasse and collaborated closely with Jean Prouvé. A man of creation and modernity, Mattler assembled throughout his life a body of works chosen with the same formal rigor that guided his architectural vision, making his collection a true aesthetic manifesto. The piece was very likely acquired by him from Jean-Michel Huguenin, a prominent figure in the African art market in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. Date Late 19th - early 20th century. Provenance Jean-Michel Huguenin Gallery, Paris (probably). Christian Mattler Collection, Paris. Literature For a stylistic perspective: LÉLOUP, Hélène. Dogon. Paris: Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac / Somogy, 2011. (The formal treatment and the nature of the patina of our piece closely recall the N'duleri equestrian figure reproduced on p. 220, as well as the Mandé equestrian figure illustrated on p. 248). Condition Superb resinous sacrificial patina, old loss to the right arm. Dimensions Height: 27 cm (base included).