



Ibeji Twin



1 700 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Height : hauteur : 27 cm

Description

A votive sculpture representing an ere ibeji sacred twin, originating from the Yoruba tradition of Nigeria. This figure is distinguished by a remarkable sculptural presence and a deep ritual patina, testifying to a long history of cultic use. Standing on a circular base, the figure presents a balanced frontal posture, with arms resting alongside the body and hands placed on the thighs. The head, subtly oversized in accordance with Yoruba aesthetics to emphasize spiritual consciousness (ori), is topped with a tall, finely striated coiffure. The face is enlivened by powerfully carved almond-shaped eyes, a straight nose, and carefully incised lateral scarifications, which rhythmically define the volumes and affirm the cultural identity of the figure. The neck is adorned with an ancient bead necklace, a

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reminder of the intimate care devoted to the Ibeji during domestic rituals. The whole displays a dark, brilliant patina, enriched by lighter areas of wear resulting from repeated handling and ritual anointings (palm oil, libations of African camwood powder--osun--and continuous care over time). Through its formal balance and the finesse of its carving, this Ibeji ranks among the most expressive works of this tradition. Preserved for over 80 years in a discreet private collection, it represents an exceptional rediscovery today, its aesthetic quality naturally inviting comparison with the celebrated examples from the former Xavier Richer collection, now housed in the Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac. Date Late 19th - early 20th century. Provenance Henri Couillard Collection (1904-1984). Literature RICHER, Xavier, and JOUBERT, Hélène. *Divins Jumeaux : Ibedji / Divine Twins*. Paris: Somogy Éditions d'Art, 2012. Condition Superb libation patina and traces of polychromy. Dimensions Height: 27 cm.