



## Soko Mutu Hemba Mask



750 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Height : hauteur : 15 cm (22,5 cm socle inclus).

### Description

Superb Hemba zoomorphic mask, known as soko mutu ("chimpanzee-man"), whose sculptural presence powerfully illustrates the striking creativity of this people. Sculpted from a lightweight wood, it displays a forceful and expressive modeling: a broad prognathic jaw, prominent brow ridges, and a half-open mouth sketch an expression that is at once threatening and parodic. The dark, finely cracked patina bears witness to long ritual use and repeated handling. The soko mutu holds a central place in the initiation ceremonies and dances of secret societies, particularly within male brotherhoods. Representing the chimpanzee, an animal perceived as the ambiguous double of man, this mask embodies brute force and the transgression of social rules, while simultaneously reminding

### Dealer

Orun Tribal Art

Tribal Art Dealer

Mobile : 0643390114

108 Place de la Claire

Gujan-Mestras 33470

the community of the necessary domestication of  
primal instincts. Through its theatrical  
appearances, it warns initiates against the dangers  
of inhumanity, ironically underscoring the fragile  
balance between nature and culture. Date First half  
of the 20th century. Provenance Private collection,  
Angers (France). Grimard Collection, Nantes  
(France). Condition Beautiful crusty patina of  
use. Dimensions Height: 15 cm (22.5 cm base  
included).