



Mahongwé Reliquary From Gabon



6 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Description

Mahongwé reliquary from Gabon Height: 38 cm
Weathered wood partially covered with thin strips of copper with oxidized areas (so-called "excavation patina") The eyes consist of cabochons secured with copper nails The triangular nose has been rubbed, as have various other parts of the sculpture The sculpture is of very high quality Surely crafted by a master of the art I suppose this piece must have been buried for several years in damp soil to have developed this oxidation and weathered wood This type of statue, called a Bwété, was placed atop a basket of bones (the remains of the deceased) to represent the deceased's soul and to venerate it so that it would protect the family A beautiful collector's item Provenance: private collection

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