



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Imposing Monumental Naga Architectural Element- Morung Or Residence Of A Dignitary- Nagaland

4 800 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Length : 257

Width : 26,5

Description

Exceptional Monumental Naga Architectural Element Probably from a Morung (Men's House) or the Residence of a Village Dignitary Nagaland, Northeast India Late 19th - Early 20th Century Carved hardwood with rich honey and dark brown aged patina. Dimensions: 257 × 26.5 cm (101¼ × 10 3/8 in.) A rare and impressive architectural element from Nagaland, in Northeast India, probably originating from a morung--the communal men's house reserved for unmarried young men--or from the residence of a village chief or dignitary. Carved from a single massive piece of hardwood, it is decorated with a striking frieze of ten stylised zoomorphic figures arranged in a rhythmic procession of remarkable sculptural strength. Through its powerful relief and harmonious composition, the

Dealer

Galerie Un Pas de Côté

Ethnoarchéologie

Mobile : 750320533

16 rue Guesnault

Vendôme 41100

piece perfectly illustrates the monumental architectural tradition developed by the Naga peoples to adorn their most prestigious buildings. Within traditional Naga society, the morung occupied a central role. Far more than a dormitory, it served as the heart of community life, where young men received their initiation, ancestral traditions were transmitted, and the defence of the village was organised. The houses of chiefs and distinguished members of the community were likewise embellished with elaborate carved architectural elements that proclaimed the prestige, status and identity of the lineage. The stylised animal figures belong to the symbolic vocabulary of Naga art, in which representations of the mithun, hornbill, tiger and other prestigious animals embodied wealth, courage, protection and the celebration of the renowned Feasts of Merit. The quality of the carving, the ancient construction mortises visible at both ends, and the deep, naturally worn patina all confirm that this is an authentic architectural element that remained integrated into a traditional structure for many years. By virtue of its monumental dimensions, remarkable sculptural quality and excellent state of preservation, this work represents an outstanding example of traditional Naga architectural carving, a category of objects that has become increasingly rare on today's art market. Provenance Former J. L. Cortés Collection. Included in the Millon sale of the J. L. Cortés Collection (2023). Acquired at the Millon auction of 10 September 2024.