



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

A Rare Pair Of Ethnographic Figurines Representing The Black Hmong, French Indochina

760 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Width : 12 cm / 14 cm

Height : 39 cm / 42 cm

Depth : 7 cm

Description

A rare pair of ethnographic carved wooden figurines depicting a man and a woman, likely from the Black Hmong (Hmong Den) people, one of the major hill tribes of northern Vietnam (formerly Tonkin). The faces, finely carved and then hand-painted, each feature a unique expression. The figures wear authentic miniature costumes made of indigo-dyed cotton, embellished with embroidery and fabric appliqués that carefully replicate the traditional clothing of the Black Hmong. The metal necklaces, bracelets, and earrings evoke the elaborate adornments worn during ceremonies and festivals. One of the figurines has a separate head, attached to the body by an old, weathered metal wire, reflecting a traditional method of production. Given the quality of their craftsmanship, the use of

Dealer

Galerie Un Pas de Côté

Ethnoarcheologie

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authentic textiles, and their documentary value, these figurines appear to have been created as ethnographic models intended to illustrate the traditional costumes of the mountain peoples of French Indochina, rather than as mere toys. The dark indigo clothing, the gaiters, the women's headdress, and the metal ornaments closely correspond to the traditional costume of the Black Hmong (Hmong Den) of northern Vietnam. This attribution is the most likely given the stylistic elements observed. Each figurine is mounted on an individual base, ensuring a stable and elegant display. Tonkin (North Vietnam), French Indochina. First half of the 20th century, circa 1920-1950.