



Fang Mabea Statue



4 000 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 56 cm

Height : 56 cm

Description

Origin. Cameroon Tribe Name. Fang Material. Wood Dimensions. 56 cm Shipping Method. Colissimo/DHL within 24-48 business hours. This statue displays the typical characteristics of Fang statuary art (notably influenced by subgroups or neighboring peoples in the border region of Gabon, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea, such as the Mabea or related forest-dwelling peoples).1. Materials and Technique Weathered wood: The body is carved from a hard, dense wood, covered with a dark, warm brown patina that is glossy in places (indicating handling or ritual use). Metal inlays: The piece is embellished with brass or copper plates that have been cut to shape and secured with small metal pins or nails. These are found on: The top and sides of the headdress. The

Dealer

Artpremierafrik

Marchand d'art africain

Mobile : 0618583181

24 Bis Rte de Saint-Denis

Deuil-la-Barre 95170

temples (in the form of openwork or crescent-shaped plates). The collarbones/chest (two decorative diagonal bands). 2. Morphological and Stylistic Analysis The head and face: Headdress: A complex headdress with side flaps or horns (typical of certain Fang/Mabea styles), separated in the center by a metal plate. Eyes: The eyes are large, round, and bulging, formed by embedded metal nails or cabochons, giving the statue a piercing expression, as if watching or seeing into the future. Mouth: Slightly parted, revealing a row of carved teeth, which reinforces the figure's dramatic or protective expressiveness. Body and Posture: Posture: The statue is depicted standing, with bent legs (a crouching or "meditative" position), anchored on a modern wooden base. Torso and arms: The torso is long and cylindrical. The shoulders are pronounced, adorned on the chest with two metal plates arranged in a V-shape. The arms hang down alongside the body, ending in hands with clearly defined fingers. Anatomical features: The navel is prominent (spherical relief), a common feature in traditional African art symbolizing the origin of life and the ancestral lineage. 3. Cultural Function This type of figure traditionally served as a guardian of a reliquary (Bieri among the Fang). Placed atop cylindrical bark boxes containing the bones of great ancestors, these statues served the dual purpose of protecting the sacred relics from desecrators and watching over the community by channeling the spiritual power of the ancestors.