



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Fang Mvaï Statue



3 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 46 cm

Description

Origin. Gabon Tribe Name. Fang Material. WoodDimensions. 46 cmShipping Method. Colissimo/DHL within 24-48 business hours This statue depicts a reliquary guardian figure (eyema-byeri) from the Fang ethnic group, native to Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea). More specifically, this type of effigy--featuring martial attributes and a headdress carved in three shells--is characteristic of the Mvaï (or Mbaï) subgroups of the Ntem Valley.Main characteristics of the work:Function and arrangement: Originally, this type of statue was mounted on a rear stem atop a bark basket (byeri) containing the relics (notably skulls and bones) of illustrious ancestors or founders of the lineage. The guardian's role was to protect these sacred remains from evil forces.The headdress:

Dealer

Artpremierafrik

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Mobile : 0618583181

24 Bis Rte de Saint-Denis

Deuil-la-Barre 95170

The most distinctive feature is its elaborate headdress, carved into three prominent lobes or shells. This crest is reminiscent of the traditional headdresses associated with Mvāi warriors.

Morphology and Posture: The figure is seated in a solemn, compact posture, with the legs bent. The arms are folded symmetrically across the torso, with the hands clasped in front of the chest to hold a ritual object (often a cup or an offering horn). The face displays stylized features characteristic of Fang aesthetics: a domed forehead, sunken almond-shaped eyes, and a protruding chin.

Patina and Material: The sculpture is carved from hardwood and features a dark, weathered patina marked by the passage of time, drying cracks, and residues of traditional ritual anointings (composed of oils and bark powders, such as padouk).