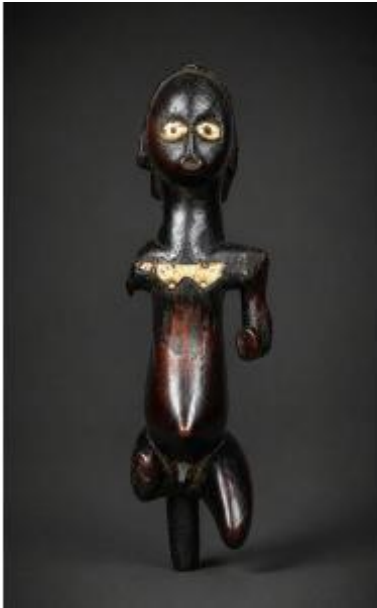




PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Fang Ntumu Statue--gabon



7 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Length : 50 cm

Height : 50 cm

Description

Origin. Gabon Tribe Name. Fang Ntumu
Material. WoodDimensions. 50 cmShipping
Method. Colissimo/DHL within 24-48 business
hours. This magnificent Fang Ntumu reliquary
statue (originating from Gabon or Cameroon)
displays the major stylistic and iconographic
characteristics of this ethnic group's traditional
art:## 1. Materials and PatinaWood and metals:
Carved from dense, hard wood, the piece features
a dark patina--ranging from dark brown to
black--enriched by successive ritual
libations.Metal inlays: The eyes are formed of
polished brass or copper plates, secured with
nails--a classic feature that gives the gaze a
piercing and luminous intensity as it watches over
the relics. A cut-out metal plate also adorns the
chest.## 2. Morphological and Iconographic

Dealer

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Analysis
The head and headdress: The skull is prominent, topped by a longitudinal, crested headdress (often braided or helmet-shaped) characteristic of Ntumu figures. The heart-shaped face features a pointed chin and a prominent nose.
The neck and torso: The neck is long, cylindrical, and powerful. The torso features a decorative metal plate affixed to the chest, emphasizing the center of the body.
The arms: The arms adopt a distinctly asymmetrical posture: one is bent upward with the hand raised, while the other is truncated or positioned differently, adding dynamism to the sculptural composition.
The abdomen and posture: The abdomen is rounded, prominent, and stretched downward, symbolizing vital force and descendants. The legs are bent and drawn up, adapted to the original seated posture in which the statue sat on the edge of the reliquary chest (nsek-bieri).
The mounting tenon: The statue extends downward via a cylindrical stake or tenon, which was used to drive it directly into and secure it to the lid of the reliquary containing the ancestors' bones.

3. Cultural Function
In the Fang tradition, this type of figure (called Eyema bieri) is not an idol to be worshipped, but a protective guardian. It protects the relics of revered ancestors from desecrators and serves as a spiritual link between the living and the founding spirits of the lineage.

Private French collection