



Asmat Sculpted Head: A Piece That Has Been Published And Exhibited



2 800 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

JEAN-PIERRE DUTILLEUX
COLLECTIONCULTUREAsmat
PeopleREGIONWest Papua,
IndonesiaMATERIALCarved
woodDIMENSIONSHeight: 19
cmDESCRIPTIONA male head carved from
dense wood, featuring a narrow, elongated face.
The elongated almond-shaped eyes are
highlighted by fine relief carvings; a long,
straight nose dominates a protruding mouth with
full lips. Two curved incisions extending from the
sides of the nose enliven the cheeks, while the
ears are carefully carved out on either side of the
face.The upper part of the skull is distinguished
by a deep carved line forming a cap with
geometric contours. This original segmentation
powerfully structures the face and lends the piece

Dealer

Collection
Rare & Unusual Objects
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a silent, introspective presence. The surface retains a nuanced brown patina, accompanied by tool marks, scuff marks, and ancient marks.

CULTURAL CONTEXT The human figure occupies a central place in the art of the Asmat, a people settled in the swampy regions of the southwestern coast of West New Guinea. It is intimately associated with the memory of the deceased, the evocation of ancestors, and the continuity between the world of the living and that of the spirits. Through the simplicity of its forms and the intensity of its expression, this head offers a particularly powerful synthesis of this sculptural tradition.

PROVENANCE, PUBLICATION, AND EXHIBITION Provenance: Jean-Pierre Dutilleux Collection. This head is reproduced in Jean-Pierre Dutilleux's book, **Les Peuples Premiers - The First World**, in the section devoted to the Asmat of Irian Jaya, under the caption "Carved Asmat Head." This particular example is formally recognizable by the shape of the skull cap, the incisions on the cheeks, and the distinctive modeling of the eyes and mouth. The work has also been featured in several exhibitions dedicated to the Jean-Pierre Dutilleux Collection. An exhibition photograph shows it displayed in a case among a collection of ethnographic objects.

CONDITION Very good condition.