



Punu-lumbo Mask. Pounou-loumbo, Gabon



1 600 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 28 cm

Width : 15 cm

Height : 28 cm

Description

Origin. Gabon Tribe Name. Bapounou Material. Wood Dimensions. 28 cm Shipping Method. Colissimo/DHL within 24-48 hours This splendid African art face mask, associated with the traditions of the Punu or Punu-Lumbo (Gabon), is distinguished by its remarkable finesse of craftsmanship and a state of preservation marked by a beautiful patina of age.## Aesthetic and Iconographic CharacteristicsThe Face and Skin Tone: The mask features an oval face with soft contours, covered in a characteristic kaolin (white pigment), often associated with the spirit world, ancestors, and purity.Scarifications: A distinctive geometric pattern in relief (checkerboard or diamond) is visible on the forehead, often interpreted as a sign of clan or tribal affiliation (vilinga).The eyes and gaze: The eyes are

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half-closed and almond-shaped, giving the face a timeless, peaceful expression, imbued with serenity and introspection. Hairstyle: A voluminous and elaborate headdress frames the top of the head. It consists of braids or sections textured by meticulous geometric incisions, and is painted in bluish-black tones that contrast elegantly with the whiteness of the face. The mouth and nose: The nose is straight and well-defined, surmounting a mouth with full, slightly parted lips, highlighted with dark or reddish hues. ## Structure and Reverse Profile and Volume: The side view reveals the beautiful curve and pronounced relief of the headdress, as well as the harmonious concavity of the face. Interior (technical side): The rear view highlights the intaglio carving (hollowing out of the wood), tool marks (adze), as well as small lateral perforations intended to secure the costume or plant fibers that traditionally completed the dancer's attire during ritual ceremonies (such as the Mukuyi dance). This type of mask was traditionally worn during entertainment rituals, major celebrations, or to honor the memory of revered ancestors, embodying the ideal of feminine beauty and spiritual wisdom.