



Mende Bundu Soweï Helmet Mask - Sierra Leone, 20th Century



450 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Diameter : 23 cm

Height : 40 cm

Description

This mask is carved by men but worn exclusively by women during the initiation rituals of the Sande (or Bundu) secret women's society. This mask embodies an aquatic spirit and represents the ideal of beauty, morality, and female fertility among the Mende. The mask appears during ceremonies marking the transition of adolescent girls to adulthood and marriage. The dancer who wears the helmet, entirely covered in black raffia fibers, embodies the spirit of the Sande society. Through dance, the mask silently teaches the initiates the values of the community, self-restraint, and the responsibilities of a wife. Height: 40 cm Diameter: 23 cm In good overall condition with a beautiful patina Weight: 1.420 kg

Dealer

S.D ANTIQUITES

Généraliste

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