



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Ritual Or Votive Mask Depicting Yama-no-kami -- Matagi Culture, Japan -- 19th Century



2 880 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

RITUAL or VOTIVE MASK depicting Yama-no-Kami Matagi Culture, Japan 19th century Edo Period (1603-1868) Wood, pigments, and plant fibers H.: 20; W.: 11.5 cm Ritual mask used for devotion or as a sacred representation of the protective deity Yama-no-Kami. It is made of a single piece of wood, carved with thick, blackened eyebrows, openwork drooping eyes, a pear-shaped nose, and a stylized notched mouth. The handwritten inscription in black ink on the back of the mask identifies it as Yama-no-Kami, a literal translation of "Mountain Deity" or "Spirit of the Mountain." Thus, this mask is believed to be associated with a belief or ritual dedicated to a mountain deity. Indeed, among the Matagi--hunters from the Tohoku region in northern Japan--the worship of

Dealer

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Yama-no-Kami is absolute: before every bear hunt, rituals and offerings are made to him to ask for his protection and permission to take a life in his forest. Having developed a culture deeply rooted in the forest, hunting, and animist beliefs, the Matagi likely kept this mask in a mountain shrine or hung it in the home of a line of hunters. Ref. 4970 Text and photos © FCP CORIDON