



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Antique Beaded Women's Apron. Northern Cameroon. Early 20th Century. 44 X 22 Cm

340 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Glass

Length : 44 cm

Width : 22 cm

Description

Our passion for antique rugs and kilims sometimes takes us beyond textiles. Yet what draws us to them remains exactly the same: color, rhythm, geometry, and the way certain objects can tell the story of a culture through their composition. That is why certain pieces, when they catch our eye, naturally find their place in our collection. This one is a beautiful example. It is an antique beaded women's apron, commonly known as a "cache-sexe," from northern Cameroon, in the cultural region of the Mandara Mountains. These garments were worn around the waist and were much more than mere clothing: they were integral to the identity, status, and traditions of the communities that crafted them. The design is remarkable for its apparent simplicity. Successive rows of small triangles

Dealer

Beauty of Kilims

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cover the entire surface, creating an almost hypnotic rhythm. Deep cobalt blue, light blue, red, yellow, soft green, and white interplay in horizontal bands. The repetition of the pattern, constantly punctuated by variations in color, gives the piece an astonishingly modern graphic quality. The technique is equally fascinating. Hundreds of small polychrome glass beads are assembled onto a flexible textile structure. The lower section extends into a long fringe of knotted fibers from which numerous cowrie shells hang. Their irregularity, their patina, and the movement they lend to the piece contrast with the highly orderly construction of the beaded decoration. The two long straps preserved at the ends make it immediately clear what the object was used for: tied around the waist, it naturally hugged the body, which also explains its slightly curved shape. A particularly decorative ethnographic object, but above all a true cultural artifact. And ultimately, a piece quite close to our own world: behind entirely different materials, we find this same universal language composed of colors, geometry, repetition, and rhythm.

Origin: Northern Cameroon - Mandara Mountains region
Period: First half of the 20th century
Materials: Polychrome glass beads, textile fibers, and cowrie shells
Dimensions: 44 × 22 cm
Condition: In fine antique condition, with wear and irregularities due to use and the piece's age.

Laurent Beauty of Kilims