



Important Mask - Bapa Mene - Abelam - Papua New Guinea - 107 Cm



450 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Other

Width : 51

Height : 107

Description

RARE AND IMPORTANT "BAPA MENE"
MASK PRESTIGIOUS YAM MASK
Abelam,
Maprik District, Papua New Guinea
Artful rush
weaving, pigments--20th century
107 × 51
cm
Spectacular and very large, this "Bapa Mene"
mask belongs to the tradition of the Abelam, a
people from northeastern Papua New Guinea, in
the Maprik region. Crafted from skillfully woven
fiber and adorned with pigments, it features a
particularly elaborate composition, dominated by
a stylized face with powerful features and an
impressive diadem of woven fibers, whose
complex construction further accentuates the
monumentality of the whole. Among the Abelam,
the yam occupies a central place in social,
ceremonial, and symbolic life. Certain yams
cultivated to reach exceptional sizes are

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considered true prestige yams. They are displayed during ceremonies and serve to express their owner's status, prestige, and social power. The large masks and ornaments associated with these ceremonies are therefore not merely decorative elements: they are part of a complex system of social relations, exchanges, ceremonial competition, and the display of prestige. The "Bapa Mene" is thus linked to this ceremonial world of the yam and to the celebration of exceptional products. The sophistication of the wickerwork, the particularly elaborate craftsmanship at the top, and above all its remarkable dimensions--over one meter in height-- make it a particularly spectacular object, intended to be seen and recognized during ceremonies. A beautiful example of the Abelam's fiber art, characteristic of this region of Papua New Guinea, and a rare piece due to its scale, construction, and ceremonial nature. Dimensions: 107 × 51 cm.