Kumu Mask, Nsembu Style - Congo - Early 20th Century



1 200 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 17 cm

Height : 22 cm

Description

A wooden mask attributed to the Kumu, also known as the Komo, from the northeastern part of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The oval, slightly domed face features openwork eyes and a prominent nose that extends into a central ridge on the forehead. The open mouth reveals carved teeth. Traces of light-colored paint, dotted with dark and reddish-brown spots, emphasize its expressive character.This mask is stylistically related to the Nsembu type. Among the Kumu people, these masks were used within the Nkunda initiatory society, where they played a role in divination practices and the rites accompanying the transition to adulthood. Appearances in male-female pairs are documented in this tradition.The reverse side is hollowed out and

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retains visible traces of carving. Circular perforations around the rim were likely used to attach ties or costume elements. The surface shows signs of wear, paint loss, and localized cracks, visible in the photographs. Displayed on a black metal base.Date: attributed to the early 20th century.Materials: wood with traces of paint; metal base.Dimensions of the mask: height 22 cm, width 17 cm.Total height with base: 43 cm.