

SA1080229

A Punu Mask, Gabon, 19th Century

Price

GBP 800

| USD \$1,079 | EUR 936

Item Reference: SA1080229

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 30 cm (11.8")

Width = 22 cm (8.7")

Depth = 15 cm (5.9")

Description

This Punu mask hails from the 19th century, a testament to the rich cultural tapestry of Gabon. The mask features a linear coiffure, meticulously carved to represent the traditional hairstyles of the Punu people. Its face is painted with white Kaolin, symbolizing the spirits of ancestors and purity. A striking diamond motif scarification mark adorns the forehead, sitting just above the narrow eye slits that bring a mysterious allure to the mask's visage. The design elements of the mask are not only decorative but also hold significant cultural and spiritual meaning within the Punu community. Currently, the mask is elegantly presented on a bespoke metal stand, which enhances its visual appeal and highlights its delicate features. This mask, once part of the private collection of a distinguished Belgian gentleman, indicating its journey from the heart of Central Africa to Europe, where it has been preserved and appreciated as a valuable piece of art and history. This description captures the essence of the Punu mask, emphasizing its cultural significance and the beauty of its craftsmanship. Hight: 12 inches (30 cm) Width: 8 1/2 inches (22 cm) Depth: 6 inches (15 cm) He...

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