

SA1081075

A Kifwebe Mask, Songye, Democratic Republic Of Congo, Circa 19th Century

Price

GBP 550

| USD \$750 | EUR 642

Item Reference: SA1081075**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 62 cm (24.4")

Width = 24 cm (9.4")

Depth = 29.5 cm (11.6")

Description

Remarkable Kifwebe mask from the Songye people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, dating back to the 19th Century. The mask is characterized by its distinctive features and traditional Songye design elements. The mask features a plain tall comb at the top, a design element that adds to its height and grandeur. The face of the mask is carved with eye slits, providing a narrow field of vision for the wearer. The stylised mouth adds an abstract quality to the mask, enhancing its mystical appeal. The mask is painted in a striking combination of red, white, and black colours, each colour carrying symbolic meanings within the Songye culture. The red represents life and fertility, the white symbolizes purity and the spiritual world, and the black signifies the physical world. Adding to the mask's authenticity and rustic charm are the dried fibres attached to the base. These fibres, typically made from plant materials, add a tactile element to the mask and are often associated with the wearer's connection to nature. Provenance: This mask, once part of the private collection of a Belgian gentleman, adding to its history and value. The mask's journey from the heart of the Con...

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