

SA1182164

Gouro 'Zamble' African tribal mask, Ivory coast.

Price

GBP 400

| USD \$545 | EUR 467

Item Reference: SA1182164

Date of manufacture: Edwardian

Dimensions

Height = 59 cm (23.2")

Description

A large and impressively carved "Zamble"-type mask from the Guro ethnic group, central Ivory Coast. The zamble masks combine the attributes of hyena, antelope, leopard and crocodile. Like all Guro masks, they can be polychrome or come in brown and black. In Guro culture, distinctions are made between masquerades that are the focus of cults and those that are more secular in nature. A sequence of three sacred masks centres around Zamble, a mythical male being whose form fuses antelope and leopard features. He is in turn complemented by his beautiful wife, Gu, and his wild, grotesque brother, Zuali. Such representations are owned by certain families that use them as the loci of sacrificial offerings proposed by diviners to improve their well-being. This particular mask is of a large size (59cm height) and is in very good condition. We have noted some signs of use and wear to padding attached to the rear. See images for details.

Internal Ref: 704

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