

SA1193330

Antique African Songye Kifwebe Mask c1930

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1193330****Date of manufacture: 1930**

Dimensions

Height = 73 cm (28.7")

Description

Description Striking and well-preserved Kifwebe mask created by the Songye peoples of the Congo in Africa. The mask features characteristic deep brown, black and white parrallel lines of quite a wide variety. A rare feature to have the woven material preserved as is the case with this example. This example in particular was crafted for a young male, as female and elder masks differ. The white lines are created using kaolin, which is a fine, white clay used on many cultural African masks, symbolising ancestral spirits, purity, and spiritual power. Kifwebe masks were made in the late 19th century, with the earliest evidence of their existence dating to the 1880s. The earliest recorded instance of a Kifwebe mask entering a European collection was in 1885. Date & Origin 1910 - 1950. Songye people, Democratic Republic of Congo. Condition Excellent. Preserved woven material, some scratches and age commensurate wear, no chips to the wood. Dimensions Height: 73cm (including woven material) Width: 23cm Depth: 40cm Documented Examples Crocker Art Museum

<https://www.crockerart.org/press/penetrating-expressions-kifwebe-masks-of-the-songye-and-luba-people>
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