

WOYO MASK NDUNGA DR CONGO, CABINDA POLYCHROME, AFRICAN

- Product ID: 25121
- Ethnic Group: Woyo
- Special Price (~~\$390.00~~): **\$351.00**
- Shipping: \$25.00
- Quantity Available: 0

Title: Woyo Mask Ndunga DR Congo, Cabinda polychrome, African

Type of Object: Mask

Ethnic Group: Woyo, Loango region

Country of Origin: DR Congo, Cabinda

Materials: Wood, pigment, paint

Approximate Age: Mid 20th Century

Dimensions: 13 inches H

Overall Condition: Good. Most of our pieces have spent decades on at least two continents, and have been treasured by several owners. Small splits, scrapes and cracks are a normal part of their patina attesting to their age and extensive use. We examine each piece carefully when we receive it and report any damage we find in our listings. Please look carefully at the pictures which may also reveal condition and damage.

Damage, Repair: General wear

Additional Information:

This finely carved mask shows the signs of much use and care of handling indicating some age associated to it. The features of the face are carved with great concern for detail and naturalistic expression that are often found in the masks of the Woyo and Vili and including the Yombe. All share in many of the uses of masks and figures with other members of the greater Kongo Kingdom. Masks are used during initiations, funerals of important individuals or may have social control functions or are used by diviners and healers. When used by diviners the mask exercised power in the same fashion as the well known nkissi figures (also known as nail fetishes). The subtle relief carving of the face with the down turned mouth with teeth was painted a dots color applied by fingertips to further set it off from the face painted a startling white to indicate understanding and knowledge. This use of color reflects the complex symbolism of color used by the various neighboring Kongo peoples such as red for bravery, male potency or black for darkness and white to illustrate illumination and knowledge or femininity, fertility and social harmony. White also makes reference to female ancestral spirits known as simbi. The inner side of the mask is smoothed reflecting use over an extended period of time. This is a classic mask and will hold an prominent place in a collection.

I have examined this piece and agree with the description.

Niangi Batulukisi, PhD



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