



PUNU FUNERAL MASK

\$388

c. 1900 • Gabon • Pigment, Wood • Collection #CAA1299

W: 6.5" D: 6.75" H: 11.0"

The Punu tribe of Gabon designed many masks with idealized images of their female ancestors. The fine features of this mask draw down to a pointed mouth. The tilted eyes, triangular forehead, and slight ears are all sculptural expressions of the subject's striking beauty. The white paint indicated peacefulness, especially that of a restful afterlife. Those features mark this helmet mask as most likely having been involved in funereal rituals. The stylized facial features and precise geometries combine to create a sculptural object for today's home.



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