



LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH CENTURY FON BOCCIO

\$2,780

c. 1900 • Benin • Wood • Collection #CAA1221

W: 7.0" D: 21.0" H: 25.0"

The Fon people are a major West African ethnic and linguistic group in the country of Benin and in southwest Nigeria. Their religion, Voudon, centers around a vast pantheon of gods and spirits, many of which are animals. This ferocious-looking creature is a boccio, a small figure carved of wood that was used in religious rituals. Lavished with offerings or called forth through sacred ceremonies performed by a priest, the boccio was called upon for individual protection or on behalf of the well being of an entire community. Continued...



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Resembling a dog or a lion, this masterfully carved boccio is detailed with large protruding eyes and the fearsome bared teeth of a guardian.



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