



GABONESE PUNU HELMET MASK

\$4,880

c. 1950 • Gabon • Paint, Wood • Collection #CAA1435

H: 16.0" Dia: 8.5"

The Punu people of Gabon are known for skillfully-carved masks that idealize the beauty of female ancestors. The classic Punu mask features pointed hairdos, scarification marks, full lips, and almond-shaped eyes, making this mask unusual for its highly-abstracted quality and depiction of four faces. In keeping with tradition, the faces are painted white with kaolin, a substance associated with healing and the spiritual realm, that may have also provided protection against witchcraft. Continued...



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We're captivated by the artist's masterful use of wood - seen in the way the grain enhances the detail of the figure's hairstyle and invests the piece with organic energy.



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