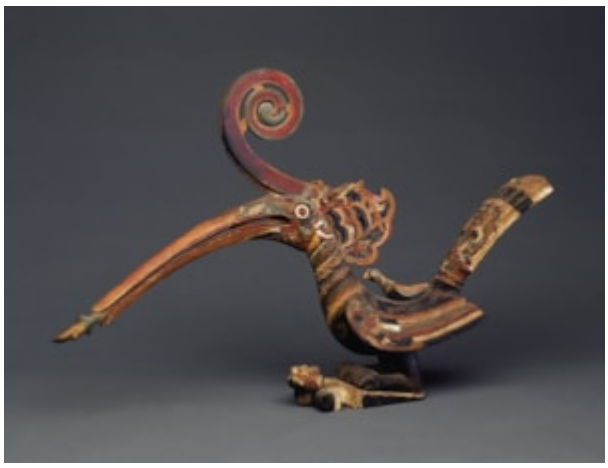
Finch & Co



A RARE ANCESTOR BIRD FIGURE FROM THE IBAN DAYAK PEOPLE'S OF SARAWAK , BORNEO

A RARE ANCESTOR BIRD FIGURE FROM THE IBAN DAYAK PEOPLE'S OF SARAWAK , BORNEO . CARVED AND PAINTED WOOD
LATE 19 TH – EARLY 20 TH CENTURY
SIZE : 39 CM HIGH , 58.5 CM WIDE – 15 ½ INS HIGH , 23 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

GREAT HORNBILLS HAVE ENORMOUS DOWN CURVED BILLS USUALLY SURMOUNTED BY A GROTESQUE HORNEY CASQUE AND CAN MEASURE UP TO 5 FEET LONG . THEY ARE NOT BEAUTIFUL BIRDS BUT ARE INTRIGUING , FASCINATING AND AMAZING IN THEIR UNIQUE HABITS . THEY MATE FOR LIFE AND ARE OFTEN REGARDED AS SYMBOLS OF PURITY AND FIDELITY .

THE DAYAK REGARD THE GREAT HORNBILL AS RELATED TO THE SOUL AND THE ANCESTRAL SPIRIT WORLD . THESE CAREFULLY CARVED WOODEN BIRD FIGURES WERE DISPLAYED IN FESTIVALS HONOURING THE GOD OF WAR AND AT CELEBRATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL HEAD HUNTING .