## Finch & C°



88 An Igbo-Izi Elephant Spirit helmet mask, 'Ogbodo Enyi' Wood with fine patina, red black and white pigments First half 20th Century

Frorenance: Collected in Africa by a Nuclish missionary Josef La Gergres, later purchised from Gallery Leger, Gothsmang in 1969 by the architect Kalle Jamoot.

A number of riflers all linguistically related inhabit the Cross River area on the border between Nigeria and Camerson. This mank is probably from the Abshallai area in the North Rastress part of the Niger River delta, which is on area of forest and recomp between the Igho-16 people live. The Elephant Spirit Mesk, 'Oghodo Eng', is carried and used to sever evil spirits and back in a manuperade performance often associated with a significant life event. The mask numbines obplant and human furnes in one powerful and criting, silvature convergion.

## AN IGBO-IZI ELEPHANT SPIRIT HELMET MASK, 'OGBODO ENYI'

AN IGBO-IZI ELEPHANT SPIRIT HELMET MASK, 'OGBODO ENYI' WOOD WITH FINE PATINA RED BLACK AND WHITE PIGMENTS FIRST HALF 20TH CENTURY SIZE: 58 CM LONG

## LITERATURE

A NUMBER OF TRIBES ALL LINGUISTICALLY RELATED INHABIT THE CROSS RIVER AREA ON THE BORDER BETWEEN NIGERIA AND CAMEROON. THIS MASK IS PROBABLY FROM THE ABAKALIKI AREA IN THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF THE NIGER RIVER DELTA, WHICH IS AN AREA OF FOREST AND SWAMP WHERE THE IGBO-IZI PEOPLE LIVE. THE ELEPHANT SPIRIT MASK, 'OGBODO ENYI', IS CARVED AND USED TO AVERT EVIL SPIRITS AND BAD LUCK IN A MASQUERADE PERFORMANCE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH A SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENT. THE MASK COMBINES ELEPHANT AND HUMAN FORMS IN ONE POWERFUL AND STRIKING, ABSTRACT CONCEPTION.