

Finch & C°



A RARE LARGE WESTERN SUDAN, MALI BAMANA (BAMBARA) ANIMAL DANCE MASK

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OLD DRY AND CRUSTY PATINA

19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE : 99 CM HIGH, 30 CM WIDE, 15 CM DEEP – 39 INS HIGH, 11¼ INS WIDE, 6 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

AS PICASSO TOLD MALRAUX 'FOR ME THE (TRIBAL) MASKS WERE NOT JUST SCULPTURES, THEY WERE MAGICAL OBJECTS
"INTERCESSORS" AGAINST EVERYTHING, AGAINST UNKNOWN, THREATENING SPIRITS... THEY WERE WEAPONS -
TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM BEING RULED BY SPIRITS, TO HELP FREE THEMSELVES' (RUBIN 1984 PG 255 PRIMITIVISM IN 20TH
CENTURY ART)

THESE MASKS WERE ONCE WORN BY THE KONO SOCIETY OF THE BAMANA PEOPLES IN THEIR RITUALS FOR A GOOD
HARVEST.