

Finch & C^o



AN AFRICAN KONGO PEOPLES MAGICAL CARVED WOOD FIGURE 'N'KISSI'

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FETISH MATERIAL NOW MISSING THAT WAS ONCE ATTACHED TO THE FRONT OF THE TORSO AND THE ARMS

OLD BROWN SHINY PATINA

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 15.5CM HIGH – 6 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO AS 'POWER' OR 'FETISH' FIGURES THESE N'KISSI ARE IN FACT THE PHYSICAL CONTAINER FOR A SPIRIT FROM THE OTHER WORLD, THE LAND OF THE DEAD. WHEN ACTIVATED BY A 'NGANGA', A SPECIALIST SORCERER OR SHAMAN, THE FIGURE HAS THE POWER TO HEAL, TO PROTECT OR TO PUNISH. IN ORDER TO ACTIVATE THESE FORCES THE NGANGA PROVOKES THE FIGURE BY INSULTING IT, SINGING TO IT OR CREATING AN EXPLOSION WITH GUNPOWDER IN FRONT OF IT.