Finch & Co



MARQUESAS ISLANDS CARVED WOOD FAN HANDLE

A MARQUESAS ISLANDS CARVED WOOD FAN HANDLE
MOUNTED ON STAND BY INAGAKI
SIZE: 8CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE, 2CM DEEP - 3¼ INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, ¾ INS DEEP
9CM HIGH - 3½ INS HIGH (ON INAGAKI BASE)
19TH CENTURY

LITERATURE

MARQUESAN TIKI FIGURES WITH THEIR ENLARGED HEADS, BENT KNEES AND EXTENDED ARMS AND HANDS RESTING ON THEIR STOMACHS HAVE A COMMON ARTISTIC ANCESTRY WITH OTHER EASTERN POLYNESIAN SCULPTURAL TRADITIONS SUCH AS THOSE OF TAHITI AND EASTER ISLAND RAPA NUI. MARQUESAN FAN HANDLES OF THE 19TH CENTURY WERE ALWAYS ADORNED WITH TIKI'S. CARRIED BY WARRIORS 'TOA', BY RITUAL SHAMANIC SPECIALISTS 'TAU'A' AND BY INDIVIDUALS OF HIGH BIRTH AND STATUS, THEY FUNCTIONED AS SYMBOLS OF RANK. THEY WERE ARTFULLY DISPLAYED BY BOTH MARQUESAN MEN AND WOMEN ON IMPORTANT CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS.