Finch & Co



CENTRAL AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO BEMBE MALE FIGURE OF A DRUMMER

A CENTRAL AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO BEMBE MALE FIGURE OF A DRUMMER
OLD SMOOTH SILKY PATINA
LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE: 28.5CM HIGH - 11¼ INS HIGH / 33.5CM HIGH, 13¼ INS HIGH (WITH BASE)

LITERATURE

THE BEMBE ARE MORE GENERALLY KNOWN FOR THEIR MINIATURE SCULPTURES AND SO THE LARGER FIGURATIVE PIECES SUCH AS THIS EXAMPLE ARE COMPARATIVELY RARE. A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF BEMBE STATUES IS THE ELONGATED TORSO UPON WHICH A RHYTHMIC PATTERN OF RAISED GEOMETRIC SCARIFICATION OCCURS. THESE DESIGNS WOULD HAVE ORIGINALLY ALLOWED IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL PORTRAYED AND GIVEN HIS RANK AND STATUS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE OVAL SHAPED HEAD HAS STRONGLY MODELLED FEATURES WITH A THICK BEARD EXTENDING FROM JUST BELOW THE CHIN. HIS EYES ARE INLAID WITH SHARDS OF PORCELAIN SUGGESTING AN ABILITY TO SEE BEYOND THE HUMAN REALM.