



Oceanian Bamboo Mask with Long Hair from
New Guinea

As low as **\$1,600**

In stock

SKU

LU825844876142



Details

Ceremonial mask from the Sepik River region of Papua New Guinea, associated with the dance traditions of the Eastern Highlands. Crafted from wood, cowrie shells, clay, pigment, and plant fibers, it reflects the symbolic and functional qualities of Melanesian ritual art.

The mask is carved from lightweight wood, featuring a symmetrical face with a central nose, open mouth, and pierced eyes, allowing visibility for the wearer. Painted in black, white, and sienna tones, the surface design evokes the dual gaze often seen in regional ceremonial objects.

Feathers and cowrie shells adorn the top, while a dense fringe of plant fibers extends downward, enhancing movement during performance. The reverse side reveals a woven structure, indicating it was intended to be worn over the entire head in danced rituals.

In the context of Papua New Guinea's spiritual traditions, such masks are not portraits but representations of ancestral or guardian spirits. The dancer serves as a medium, connecting the physical and spiritual realms through performance.

The age of this piece is undetermined. It may be a more recent creation, produced in accordance with traditional methods and ceremonial use.

REFERENCE NUMBER: LU825844876142

PERIOD: Mid-20th Century

CONDITION: Good

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MEASUREMENTS: Height: 33" Width: 13" Depth: 12"

COUNT: 1

MATERIAL: Natural Fiber, Shell, Wood

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Papua New Guinea