

MARC ASSAYAG

African & Oceanic Art

Summer 2019



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Africa

1. Bedu



ex Putnam Coll., Usa
ex Budrose Coll., Usa

De-accessed from the Brooklyn Museum, Ca. 1955, this large Nafana plank mask is of classic style. With a triangular base mask supporting a large serrated sun-like element, the mask itself is pierced with three holes that form a protruding, geometric face.

58" - 148 cm

Ca. 20th Cent.



2. Dogon



ex Van de Werf Coll., NL
ex John Giltsof, Spain
ex K. Conru, Belgium

A finely carved ancestor figure wearing a curled sickle blade attached to the head. Such sickles were associated with harvest rites and were used by the village Hogon in harvest ceremonies.

Published: Giltsof, 2007

15" - 38 cm (total)

Ca. 19th Cent.



3. Lobi



ex Private Collection, France

Presenting a great accumulation of lines, this tall, elongated female figure is dominated by its sensitive facial expression. Please note the unusual form of the body, with its many angular and rounded planes meeting in perfect relation to one another.

Encrusted patina.

Ca. 20th Cent.

24" - 60 cm



4. Songye



ex Private Collection, Usa

This Songye mask is unusually strong. Combining balance, fine execution and age, the mask is surprisingly evocative. Combining large volumes with a sensitive expression, the original 'magic' pack is still extant, tied into the rear cordage. Clearly, the raffia beard is still extant and the mask's kaolin is now pleasantly yellowed by age.

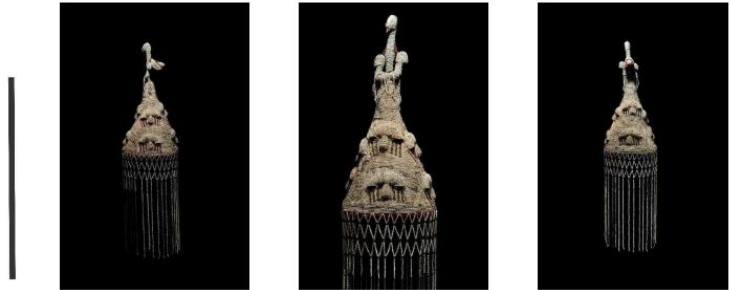
18" - 45 cm

Ca. 20th Cent.



5.

Yoruba



ex Michael Oliver, NY

A fine old Oba's crown - *Andenla*, with its beaded veil still extant. Featuring cascading faces of Eshu in deep relief the ancient crown is topped by a trio of birds.

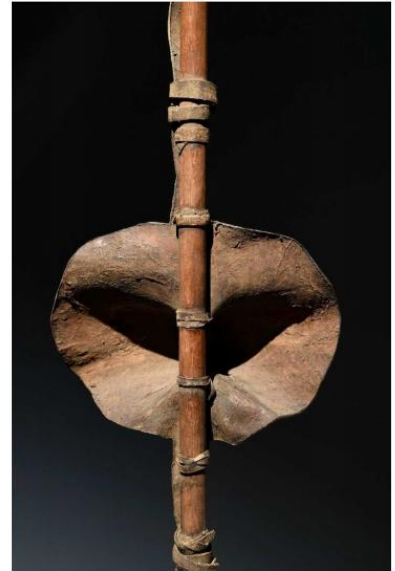
Given that only the Oba wears them, white crowns are considerably rarer than multicolored examples.

18" - 45 cm

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent.



6. Nyaturu



ex Miersch Coll., De

Nyaturu shields are rare. This particularly well used example features wonderful visual balance between the leather's natural flow and wood's linear rigidity.

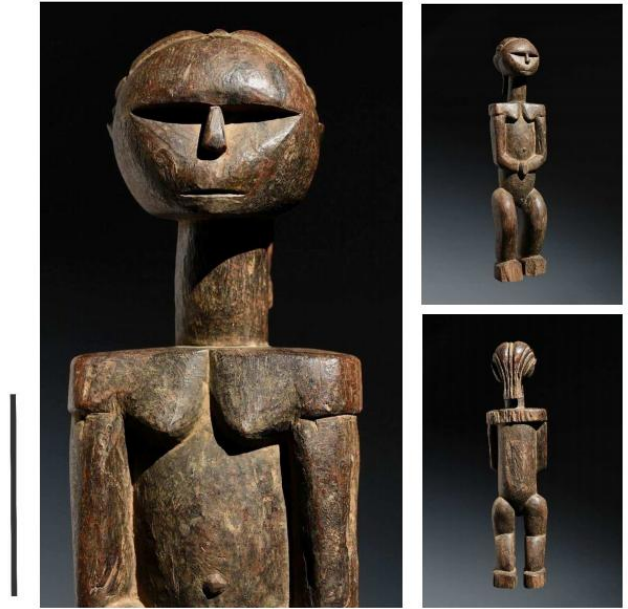
50" - 127 cm

Ca. 20th Cent.



7.

Kaguru



ex Drs Jean & Noble Endicott, NY

Although the Kaguru are located in Tanzania the architecture of their is reminiscent of Gabon's Fang reliquary figures. This particular example, with its swept back coiffure and clasped hands and broad shoulders, exemplifies this statement.

With a pleasant round face on top of an elongated neck the female figure has a serene, maternal expression.

26" - 66 cm

Ca. 20th Cent.



8. Amhara



ex Miersch Coll., De

This fine Ethiopian shield is a cousin of the intricate, metal covered shields that are also popular in the Amhara corpus.

This example, made entirely of hide, is covered with a hypnotic dotted pattern on the entire face while a well used handle is still extant on the rear.

22" - 56 cm

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent



9. BaKongo



ex Angel Martin Gallery, Spain

A finely carved, bound, BaKongo prisoner. With honey brown patina the small figure has a classic, swept back face line and hands to the belly. As is evident, the prisoner is bound in hand woven fiber.

5" - 12.5 cm

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent



10. Bwaka



ex K. Conru, Belgium

This very old helmet like mask has fine, deep patina. Even if seemingly disorganized on the surface, the arrangement of lines on this style of mask are always complex and cohesive.

This example is no exception to this rule with deep cavities holding large eyes and pursed lips thrust forward. Stable crack on the mask's left side

14" - 35 cm
Ca. 20th Cent.



11. Kwere



ex Drs. Jean & Noble Endicott, NY

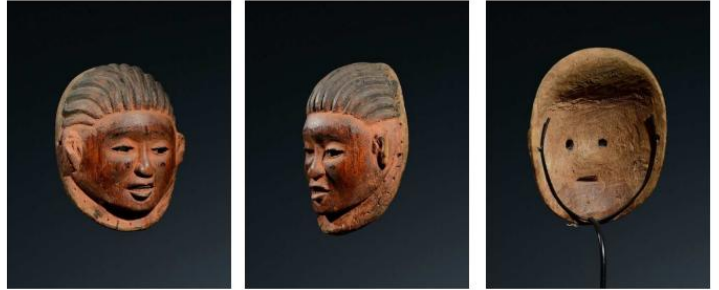
A fine and classic Kwere calabash, with its carved wooden stopper.

Ca. 20th Cent

8" - 20 cm



12. Makonde



ex J. Stephenson, NY

This small Makonde face mask has a hyper-realistic appearance, similar to those of its better known cousin; the Lipico helmet mask. Colored with red pigments, the mask is pierced for attachment and has very fine, aged patina.

Ca. 20th Cent.

6" - 15 cm



13.

Moba



ex J. B. Bacquart Gallery, Paris
ex Lucas Ratton, Paris
ex Galerie Future Anterieur

Everything about this miniature Moba figure is monumental. From its classically tight, restrained energy to the encrusted patina on its surface, every aspect of this figure is classic, but rendered in a miniature package.

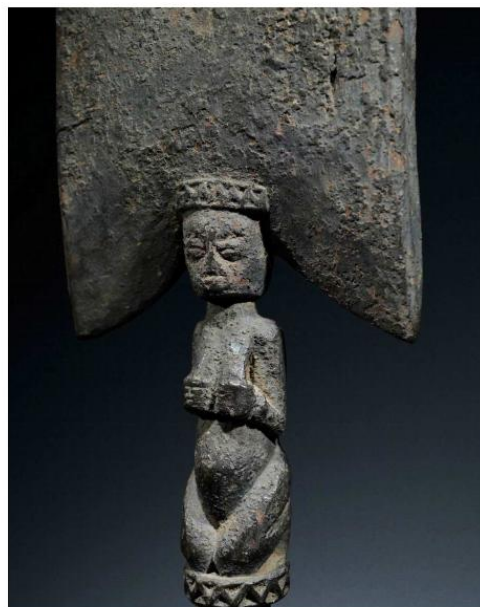
Ca. 20th Cent

5" - 12 cm



14.

Yoruba

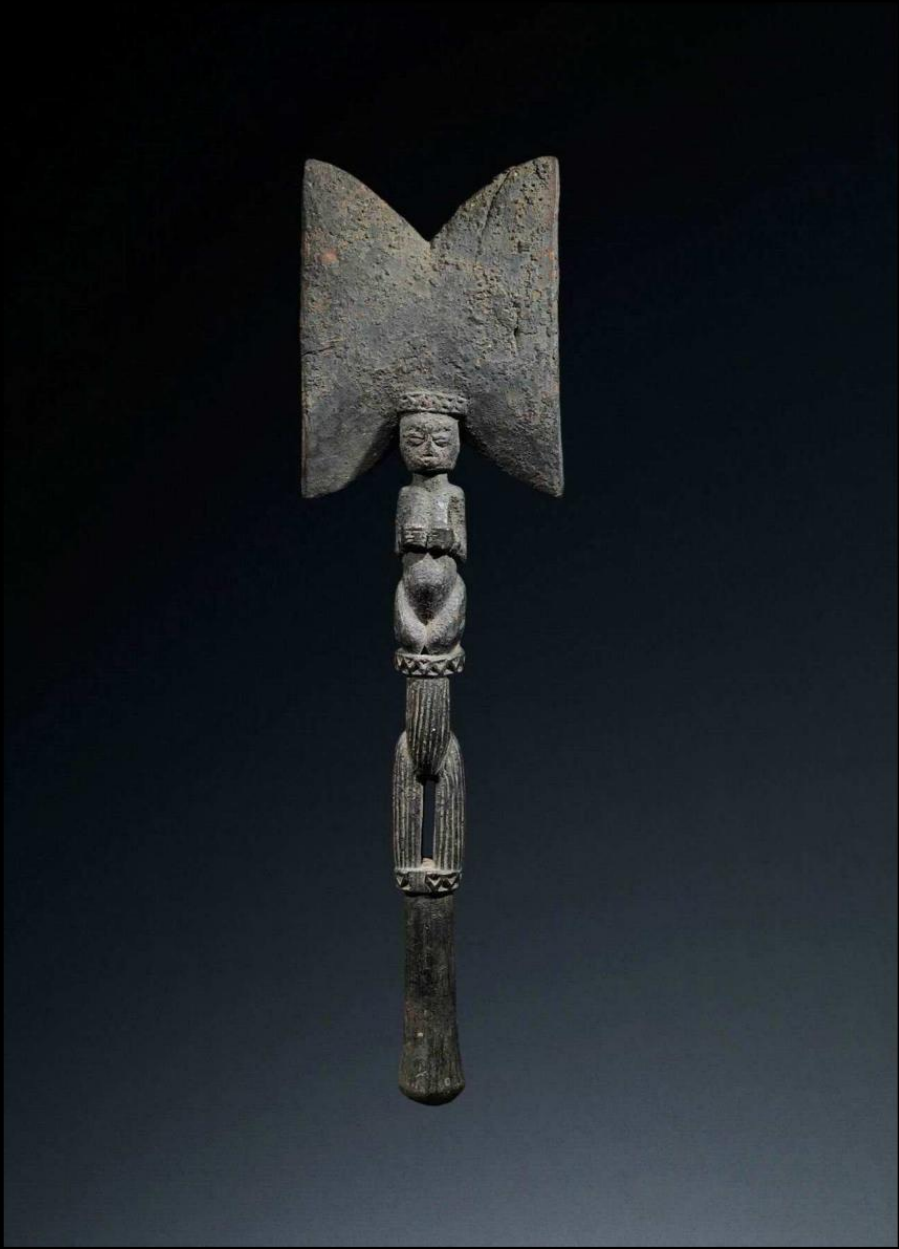


ex Private Coll., Canada
ex Shainman Gallery, NY

This fine old Shango staff used to be bright with anil blue. The remains of this can be seen mostly on the back while the front is covered with encrusted matter.

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent.

20" - 50 cm



15.

Yoruba



ex Budrose Coll., Usa
ex Dunlevy Coll, Usa

According to Budrose collection records, this figure was exhibited at the Atlantic City Expo, ca. 1980's

12" 1/2 - 31 cm

Ca. 20th Cent.



Oceania

16.

Keram River



ex Private Collection, Usa
ex Michael Hamson, Usa

Although similar to Coastal Sepik and Ramu river masks, Keram river masks are often characterized by a pleasantly natured menace. Such is the case with this long nose, smiling ancestor mask.

Ca. 20th Cent

18" - 45 cm



17.

Korwar



ex Harris Coll., Usa
ex Thomas Murray, Ca

A fine large Korwar from Cenderawasih Bay, probably Biak Island, West Papua, Indonesia. Depicting ancestor figures Korwars are typically carved in seated position, with arms to the knees, as with the enclosed example. This particularly large example is all the more haunting by its worn down features and washed in, white kaolin coloration.

Ca. 19th Cent

14" - 40 cm



18.

Murik Lakes



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

An imposing and intricate canoe prow from the Murik Lakes region of Papua New Guinea. As can be seen by the anthropomorphic creature curling around the point, the prow's patina is lustrous and ancient.

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent

28" - 72 cm



19.

Vanuatu



ex Private Collection, Australia

This large Vanuatu fern-wood figure is carved in classic posture somewhat hunched over and with hands to the belly. With remnants of trade paints and natural pigment coloring the figure's body is well defined. The head, which occupies a full third of the figure, features prominent circular eyes and a large, curling nose.

70" - 188 cm

Ca. 20th Cent



20.

Western Highlands



ex Stanley Moriarty, Australia
ex Wayne Heathcote, UK

A fine and complex gourd mask with classic Huli / Jimi River red and yellow pigments. These pigments are enhanced with designs outlined in Job's Tear seeds. With a cassowary hair coiffure and human hair beard the mask is (solidly) held together with old natural resins.

Published: New Guinea Highlands, Art from the Jolika Collection
FAMSF, DeYoung Museum, 2017, Pg 355, Illus. 13.56

Ca. 19th - early 20th cent

8" - 20 cm (gourd only)



21.

Middle Sepik



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

This slit gong is almost identical to the example in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Inv. #1979.206.1760). Intricately carved, with a well rendered ancestor and bird like representations along half of its length, the pounder has a fantastic, hand worn, pounder.

32" - 65 cm

Ca. 19th - early 20th cm



22.

Karawari



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY
ex Michael Evans, Usa
ex Ron Perry, collected *in-situ* at Dauyik (Dainik) Village, Upper Karawari, Ca. 1960's

A fine and exceptionally large Karawari bark board featuring two ancestor faces in a complex field of geometric designs. According to collection notes these boards relate to the wooden figures that are common to the Karawari. c.f. Die Yimar, Eike Haberland, Siegfried Seyfarth, Steiner, 1974. Pg 211, Illus 378-379

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent

48" - 120 cm





23. Madang



ex Jolika Collection, Rye, NY
ex M. Hamson, Usa

A rare three panel men's tapa dance apron on its original bamboo frame. From the Finisterre Mountains, Madang Province, the tapa was collected in Gua Village.

Ca. 20th Cent

45" - 114 cm





24.

Massim



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY
ex Harry Beran Coll. (HB772), collected in situ Ca. 1998

According to H. Beran's notes this rare child's paddle was made on Gawa Island by Muribawa, a canoe master carver, for his young son Takewaki. With genial design the two stylized bird designs almost seem to purposely create a young boy's face.

Ca. 20th Cent

41" - 104 cm



25.

Aitape



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

I am attributing the style of workmanship on this club to the northern coast, probably Aitape. Exact attribution aside, the sword shaped club is outstanding by the intricacy of the carving found on the handle and body. The fact that the club is dense hardwood makes this all the more impressive.

Ca. 20th Cent

43" - 109 cm



26. Middle Sepik



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY
ex Peter Hallinan Coll. (H306)

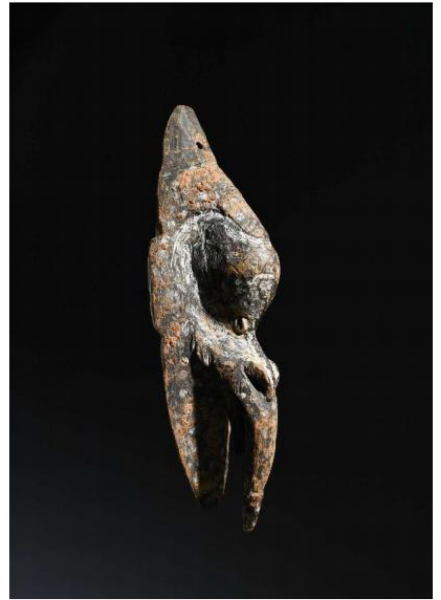
This is an exceedingly rare lime spatula from the middle / upper Sepik. This is unusual, clearly, as these are the Sepik is not known for lime consumption like the Trobriands, for example. Featuring a stylized, long nosed ancestor the wooden spatula has superb patina and clear signs of usage on the discolored tip.

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent

14" - 35 cm



27. Middle Sepik



ex Harris Coll., Usa
ex Lewis Wara Gallery, Usa

A dramatic old flute mask in the form of a classic latmul Mei mask. Old polycrome and lustrous patina.

Ca. 20th Cent.

8" - 20 cm



28. Nomad



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

This is an unusually geometric shaped dance wand from the Nomad / Fly River area of New Guinea's Papuan Gulf. Intricately incised, the club features an engaging stylized human figure on what one would assume to be the main, frontal pallet. The sides of the thick club are also replete with geometric designs, as is the rear panel.

With fine lustrous patina the club like wand is obviously aged and well used.

Ca 20th Cent

33" - 85 cm



29. Papuan Gulf



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

This engaging little Bioma figure is a rare representation a female exposing her genitalia. This would typically infer that the sculpture is of a personal type and is somehow related to fertility. Please note the obvious age of the wood, especially seen on the back.

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent.

9" - 22.5 cm



30.

North Coast



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

At times it becomes difficult to attribute a location of manufacture for an object. Such is the case with this ancient shark form ritual adze. I would place it from the north coast but cannot assert this. Locality aside the object is very cleverly designed, with the clear shark image holding a (wooden) blade. Excellent usage patina on the handle.

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent.

9" 1/2 - 24.5 cm



31.

Massim



ex Marcia & John Friede's Jolika Collection, Rye, NY

This serrated style of Massim war club is well referenced in literature but infrequently seen for sale. Covered with classic infilled scrollwork the club is made of dense hardwood that would have required days to cut out with basic, if any, tools.

Ca. 20th Cent.

26" - 66 cm



Varia

32. Chofa



ex Private Coll., Usa

These lyrical Thai roof ornaments are called "Chofa". Representing a stylized bird the carvings are pure poetry in motion. This large example is simply ancient. Once cut in half for transport the figure has been rejoined professionally. Hardwood with old traces of polycrome and fine weathering.

Ca. 19th Cent

70" - 175 cm



33. Nias



ex Private Coll., Usa
ex Sotheby's' Important Tribal Art
May 8th, 1996

A very fine bone pipe stem in the shape of a standing man.

Ca 19th or 20th Cent

5" - 12.5 cm



Photo: Sotheby's 1996



34. Nepal



ex Auliso Coll., Usa
ex Friedman Coll, Usa

A very fine and ancient Himalayan shaman's mask. Fashioned from the hide of a goat the mask is has classic moon and crescent designs applied in red/green cloth on the face. The back is also rigged with leather dance straps for attachment.

24" - 60 cm

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent



35. Dayak



ex Private Collection, Usa

A fine and artistic Dayak carpet hooking instrument with a classic 'curly blade' on the cutting end. The handle is made of bone and carved in the form of an elongated (and stylized) dragon sweeping down.

Ca. 19th - early 20 Cent

7" - 17.5 cm



36. Himalayas



ex Harris Coll., Usa

This large, monolithic Guardian figure's best attribute is not its size but, rather, the energy it releases. Indeed, despite relatively calm carving in the round, the figure's strength bursts forward from its front plane, just like a visual sound speaker.

Of ancient hardwood the figure is both archaic and engaging.

39" - 99 cm

Ca. 19th - early 20 Cent.



37. Dayak



ex Dashow Coll., Usa

A fine and ancient Mandau sword hilt carved of bone and embellished with horsehair. As is well known complex carving, and multiple representations, are a hallmark of Dayak carving.

Ca. 19th - early 20th Cent

6" - 15 cm



38. Himalayas



ex Indian Heritage Gallery, Paris

A superb and complex Tibetan Kapala adorned with intricately worked bronze (or other similar metal) around the edge. The frontal, main part of metal carving features a noble flanked by two citipati like masks.

Ca. 19th Cent

8" - 20 cm



39. Alaska



ex Private Collection, Usa

A 'curio' type salad fork, finely carved in Northwest Coast style. Gifted to K.O. Ward by E.G. Edward in Juneau, Alaska in 1900.

Ca. 19th Cent

14" - 35 cm



40. Woodlands



ex Rossman Collection, Usa

This is a fine old Woodlands (Iroquois) figural pipe made of dense ash or maple.

Ca. 19th Cent

4" - 10 cm





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