

Sale Name: 14th Annual Montana Spring Auction

LOT 196B - Balinese Barong Ceremonial Mask, c.1950-1970



Description

Hand-carved wooden theatrical mask depicting Barong, the mythological king of spirits in Balinese mythology. Features exaggerated bulging eyes with concentric red and black rings, prominent fangs, flame-like crown elements, ornate ears, and distinctive curved tusks. Painted in traditional polychrome with creamy white base, vibrant red accents, and black detailing.

Provenance

Balinese, Indonesia, dating to circa 1950-1970 based on construction techniques and materials. Represents the benevolent Barong character from the traditional Barong dance drama, which depicts the eternal battle between good and evil. This ceremonial performance mask would have been worn by dancers portraying the lion-like Barong character who protects villages from Rangda, the demon queen.

Condition Notes

Evidence of ceremonial use with expected paint wear and patina development. Minor cracks in the wood consistent with age and humidity exposure. Tusks remain intact, which is uncommon for masks of this vintage. Interior shows expected wear from use. Hanging on custom black metal display stand which is included. Refer to the pictures and in person inspection for condition.

Approximate Dimensions

10 × 9 inches

Quantity: 1



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