



Dance mask complete with its headdress

Not on display

Title/Description: Dance mask complete with its headdress

Born: 1900 c. - 1999 c.

Object Type: Mask

Materials: Fibre, Pigment, Wood

Measurements: h. 490 x w. 250 x d. 200 mm

Accession Number: 533

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Africa, Congo, Kinshasha

Cultural Group: Bapende

This triangular shaped wooden mask is painted with *tukola* (powdered camwood) which gives it this vibrant orange-red colour. The cap is made of raffia 'hair' dyed with black swamp mud, with a conical point on the crown. The reverse of the mask shows the remnants of material that would have covered the performer. The facial features shows closed or downward-looking eyes above which sits one conjoined v-shaped eyebrow. The open mouth shows pointed teeth that have been whitened with kaolin, also used for the markings around the ears. There are patches of wear particularly around the eyes and nose. The small, evenly spaced holes running around the chin of the mask suggest the attachment of an additional costume. Scarification or patterning marks are evident on the forehead and both cheeks.

Helen Coleman

Entry written for VADs website (www.vads.ac.uk)

Provenance

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from K. J. Hewett in 1973.

Accessioned into the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia circa 1989.
