

COLNAGHI



A Lega Lukwakongo Mask

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LEGA ARTIST

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Early 20th century

Mask, lukwakongo

Wood, fiber,

h. 21.6 cm

8 1/2 in.

Provenance

Nicolas de Kun, Brussels, acquired in 1957

Ernst Anspach (1914-2002), New York, acquired in 1965 (inv. no. 0112)

Carol and Jerry (1941-2019) Kenney Collection, New York, acquired in 2001

Private Collection, London

Publications

Museum of Primitive Art, *African Tribal Sculpture from the Collection of Ernst and Ruth Anspach*.

Checklist of the Exhibition, New York, 1967, p. 8

Exhibitions

New York, Museum of Primitive Art, *African Tribal Sculpture from the Collection of Ernst and Ruth Anspach*, 15 November 1967 - 4 February 1968

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A miniature mask from the Lega people of northeast Democratic Republic of the Congo. These miniature masks, known as *lukwakongo*, are never worn on the face, but are tied to the arm or displayed on a ritual fence at Bwami society meetings. The mask represents membership in the society and identifies the rank of its owner. The heart-shaped face is framed by a line defining the nose, brows and the facial planes. The face is whitened by clay, and whole the forehead has a glossy brown patina. The face is framed by a raffia beard.

Comparanda



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, USA



Dallas Museum of Art (DMA), Dallas, Texas, USA

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