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# PAGODA RED

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## BASUKU HELMET MASK

**\$1,880**

Mid-20th Century • Democratic Republic of Congo • Wood • Collection #CAA0193

W: 10.5" D: 13.0" H: 12.5"

During their five hundred year history in the Southern Congo, the Basuku tribe developed a series of intricate rituals built around their skilled mask makers. This particular example was most likely carved in the likeness of a deceased chieftain. The artisan intentionally pronounced the eyes, cheeks, and chin to provide a terrifying test for young men as they underwent their rites for manhood. The Basuku's spiritual expressions inspired early 20th century western painters as they developed their own expressionistic forms.



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