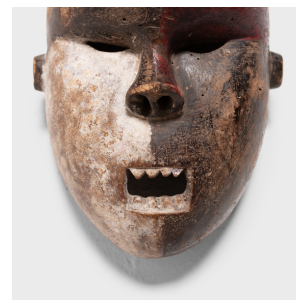
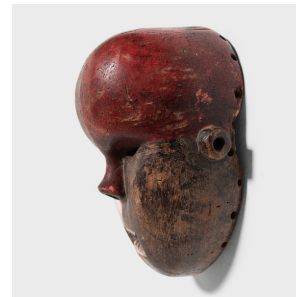
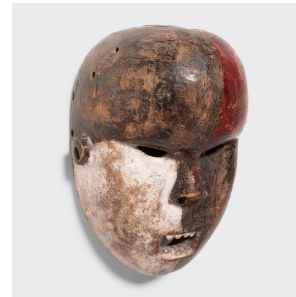

PAGODA RED



SALAMPASU WARRIOR MASK

\$388

c. 1950 • Democratic Republic of Congo • Pigment, Wood • Collection #CBH135

W: 5.5" D: 3.75" H: 7.5"

Divided into contrasting tones, this ceremonial African mask is linked to the Salampasu people of the Bantu ethnic group located primarily in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Salampasu masks were an integral part of the men's warrior society whose primary duty was to protect against invasions by outside kingdoms. Young boys would be initiated into the warriors' society and could then rise through its ranks by acquiring a hierarchy of masks. Earning the right to wear a mask involved performing specific deeds and providing large payments of livestock and other material goods. Continued...



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PAGODA RED

SALAMPASU WARRIOR MASK

The more masks a warrior owned, the more esoteric knowledge was passed on, a sign of power and authority for the Salampasu people.

Salampasu masks made for initiation purposes are characterized by a bulging forehead, slanted eyes, triangular flared nose and a rectangular mouth displaying an intimidating set of filed teeth. This mask is decorated with quadrants of red, white and black paint which has weathered with time to reveal the true wooden form. With gracefully sloping features and a smoothed surface, this Salampasu mask now lives on as a storied work of sculpture.

