



Pair of Ceremonial Paddle Blades

A true pair of ceremonial paddle blades carved with identical motifs showing a floral pattern. These dance paddles were used in relation with rituals connected to creation myths of the Original Canoe and the first migrations. Buka island, Northern Solomon Islands, Bismarck Archipelago, Melanesia. Alstonia wood and pigments. 97,7 X 15 X 3 cm and 98,3 X 15,2 X 3,5 cm. 19th/20th century.

Provenance:

Ex coll. : Xavier De la Baume, Paris. Probably acquired from the dealer Robert Duperrier, 14 Rue des Beaux Arts, Paris circa 1970/80.

Literature:

One of the pair appears as a prop in the President's office area in the film "Le Président", by Henri Verneuil, 1960/61, with Jean Gabin. The Art Director was Jacques Colombier. See the screen shot from youtube.com : Jean Gabin and one of the Buka paddles in the President's office in the film "Le Président".