



Massim Female Lime Spatula

Rare and old lime spatula representing a female ancestral figure with a large and imposing head. The expressive face is beautifully carved with a grinning mouth full of teeth and very fine incised facial decoration (tattoo or paint) highlighting the upper lip, ears, cheeks, and eyes. The figure stands straight on short powerful legs with her genitalia apparent, and with elongated arms and recurved hands supporting the chin – possibly in reference to the praying mantis.

Massim Region, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia. Wood (Ebony) with lime highlights and a fine, old patina, of age and wear. 29 cm. 19/20th century or earlier.

Literature:

Ref. : Villemminot Jacques : Les Seigneurs Des Mers Du Sud - La Vie Ancestrale Et Paradisiaque Des Habitants Des Iles Trobriand. Robert Laffont, Paris, 1967.

Part of the Jacques & Betty-Paule Villeminot collection is on display in the château de la Reine de Sicile in Saumur (France) as part of the permanent exhibitions of the Fondation Anako. Several pieces as well as documents are in the collections of the Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Paris

www.fondation-anako.org

www.quaibranly.fr