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FRIEZE NEW YORK 2017

Based in Paris for over 35 years, Galerie Meyer – Oceanic & Eskimo Art, is pleased to present a unique and curated selection of early Gope Boards - rare ancestral representations from the remote tribes of the Papuan Gulf in Papua New Guinea.

...Gope, or Spirit boards were carved by important men of an extended family. Carving and the fulfillment of obligations to the ancestors was and still is a man's responsibility. In traditional times men often lived apart from women and uninitiated boys. These large communal houses had designated areas or shrines created for the display of spirit boards and other items that indicated personal or clan identity. The boards were said to be the embodiment of the ancestral spirits who were attracted to the beautiful designs. The boards and the spirits that embodied them, were placed in the shrines and they watched over the members of the clan. They also served as reminders to their owners about their responsibility to the ancestors...

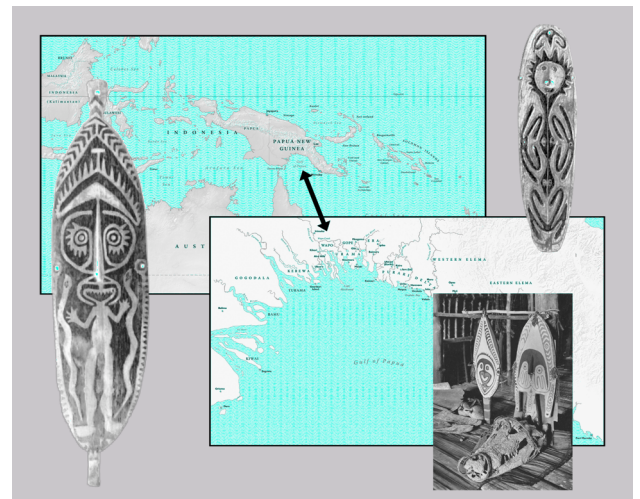
These carved and painted boards – abstract yet figurative - attracted the attention of many artists and notably George Braque, Max Ernst, André Breton and Roland Penrose owned and cherished Gope boards as important works in their collections of Non-Western art and as inspirational sources.

Contemporary art would not exist without the influence and inspiration provided by tribal art on and to the precursor artists of the early 20th century. Sourcing the roots of their innovative creativity in the art of the original cultures of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, the early masters of 20th century art opened the way for the art of today and tomorrow.

Artists, dealers and collectors have always been firm believers in the importance and beauty of tribal art and in the early years of “Modern Art” they immediately understood the essential link between the art of the 20th century and Non-Western art.

FRIEZE NEW YORK brings this visionary process to life by opening a dialogue between the two connecting artistic realities of today's Contemporary Art and early Tribal Art...

Galerie Meyer – Oceanic & Eskimo Art is proud to have been selected to participate in the first FRIEZE art-fair to mix the art of today for which it is renowned with the Early Art forms of classical Oceanic and Eskimo Art which we exhibit at FRIEZE MASTERS.



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