



GALERIE MEYER
OCEANIC & ESKIMO ART



Malagan Ritual Mask

A large and powerful mask for the malagan ritual representing a grimacing ancestor's head surmounted by an imposing hornbill bird surrounded by a cage made of sharks. These large and heavy masks are called matuai and are used during taboo rituals at the end of malagan ceremonies related to funerals. New Ireland, Melanesia. Wood (Alstonia), shells and pigments. A fine patina of age and wear with minor old damages and repairs. 125 cm high. Late 19th to very early 20th century.

Literature:

Ref. : Gunn, Michael: OCEANIA RITUAL ARTS, NEW IRELAND in the Barbier Mueller Museum Collections. Skira, Milano, 1998.