

Two Ritual Masks Tubuan and Duk-Duk

Artist: unknown
Date: before 1925
Dimensions: 160 x 60 x 30 cm
Materials: wood, vegetable fiber, feathers, metal, white pigment
Inventory no: 100317, 100318

STATE OF PRESERVATION
Several areas of the masks on the leaves and feathers have dehydration. The wood is splitting.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- Pesticide treatment
- Removal of the dust
- Consolidation of the wooden support where needed
- Re-hydration of the leaves and feathers
- Integration of the missing parts where needed
- Overall consolidation
- Photographic documentation and summary

Total Cost € 20.000,00



► These masks are from East New Britain and were created by the Tolai for the ritual ceremonies of their secret societies. These societies organized periodic rituals that brought men from one level of responsibility to the next within the culture. This helped assure social cohesion and the clear gradual assuming of authority in this patriarchal society.

These particular masks are associated with the feminine (Tubuan) and the masculine (Duk-Duk). The first mask, Tubuan, has a wooden structure covered in large leaves. A cone-shaped piece of wood is placed as a sort of mask with two large wide open eyes painted in white pigment and adorned with a pendentive

as a nose. The second mask, Duk-Duk, is similar in shape and material, but differs in that it is somewhat taller and the wood pendentive higher. These masks of very rich materials are utterly unique. Not another one of their kind exists in the world. They testify to the tradition and technique of making art crafts, a skill today lost forever.



This Duk-Duk mask stands alone in front of the Tamburan house. This is the only surviving mask of its kind in the world