

COLNAGHI



BAMANA ARTIST
Komo Mask

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Mali, late 19th-early 20th century

Komo Mask

Wood, metal

h. 73 cm
28 3/4 in.

Provenance

Hotel Drouot, Paris, 2003;
Private Collection, Belgium.

Komo, a West African power association, was one of the most important socio-political institutions in Bamana culture of Mali.

These zoomorphic masks were carved by blacksmiths and danced during judicial and initiation ceremonies by members of the Komo society. The mask was a symbol of profound knowledge and power.

The horizontal elongated animal head was meant to channel cosmic energy and was adorned with horns, quills and a ritual encrustation giving the mask supernatural power and life force.

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