## Finch & C°



88 An Igbo-Izi Elephant Spirit helmet mask, 'Ogbodo Enyi' Wood with five patine, red black and white pigments First half 20th Century

Nav: Memlong

Processnee: Collected in Africa by a Swedish minimum Josef La Gergren, Inter purchased from Gallery Leger, Gothenborg in 1969 by the architect Kalle Jonson,

A number of tribes all linguistically related ishabit the Cross River area on the horder between Nigeria and Cameroson. This mask is probably from the Abakaliki area in the Netth Eastern part of the Niger River eldos, which is an area of forest and meany better the Ight-ling people live. The Elephant Spiric Mask, "Ogloads Engl", is carved and used to avert evil spirits and had lack in a manuperate performance often associated with a significant fife event. The mark combines deplanat and hearan forem in one powerful and striking abaterse conception.

## AN IGBO-IZI ELEPHANT SPIRIT HELMET MASK, 'OGBODO ENYI'

AN IGBO-IZI ELEPHANT SPIRIT HELMET MASK, 'OGBODO ENYI' WOOD WITH FINE PATINA, RED BLACK AND WHITE PIGMENTS FIRST HALF 20TH CENTURY SIZE : 58 CMLONG

## LITERATURE

A NUMBER OF TRIBES ALL LINGUISTICALLY RELATED INHABIT THE CROSS RIVER AREA ON THE BORDER BETWEEN NIGERIA AND CAMEROON. THIS MASK IS PROBABLY FROM THE ABAKALIKI AREA IN THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF THE NIGER RIVER DELTA, WHICH IS AN AREA OF FOREST AND SWAMP WHERE THE IGBO-IZI PEOPLE LIVE. THE ELEPHANT SPIRIT MASK, 'OGBODO ENYI', IS CARVED AND USED TO AVERT EVIL SPIRITS AND BAD LUCK IN A MASQUERADE PERFORMANCE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH A SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENT. THE MASK COMBINES ELEPHANT AND HUMAN FORMS IN ONE POWERFUL AND STRIKING, ABSTRACT CONCEPTION.