



**INDONESIAN
HUDOG MASK**

Kayan - Kenyan Culture (Dayak), Borneo Island

wood and pigment with rare cloud leopard skin atop

Height: 20 in.

1063,AS1074

PROVENANCE:

Private Collection

Heather James Fine Art, Palm Desert

Shamans wear the Hudog mask to heal patients by restoring their wandering souls or to repel evil spirits. The masks would also be worn during agricultural ceremonies whose rites ensure the fecundity of the land and women.

Cylindrical offering posts, ai tos, are erected as offerings to distant ancestors. This post has two faces and represents the first ancestral pair. The people of Belu, also called Tetum, recognize three types of offering pole; ai tos, for distant progenitors, sometimes described as gods; foho, for intermediary beings; and lor, for the recently departed.

Many offerings are brought to the ai tos. When a carving is first finished, rice and a pig are sacrificed. Later, to inaugurate the post there are massive offerings from the village. At regular intervals the post is dressed in fine clothing, even an artificial beard, and food is brought to the ancestor, bei.

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