



05 **Helmet mask, Kuba/Kete people,  
Democratic Republic of Congo**

WOOD, PIGMENT H: 40cm W: 27cm  
Gadiel Family Collection

The primary ritual context of this mask is during funerals, especially funerals of senior titleholders. The most visible reference to death is the colour red, which predominates on Kuba masks. They are used during initiation ceremonies where they are associated with the nature spirits and are responsible for guarding the initiation camp and helping to train the novices.



17 Ngil Mask, Fang People, Gabon/Equatorial Guinea /Cameroon

WOOD AND PIGMENT  
H: 62cm W: 21cm  
Gadiel Family Collection

This mask represents a masquerading tradition that ceased to exist more than 60 years ago. The knowledge about this mask is, accordingly, scanty. It appears that they were worn during initiation to male society.