

"Benin Kingdom King"

DESCRIPTION

The Benin culture is known for creating superb bronze sculptures to honor its Obas (or kings). In this case, the Oba is shown wearing a hat. Memorial heads such as this were meant to capture the essence of the Oba's power, and were placed on shrines with other important objects. A hole in the top of the head would have held a carved elephant tusk chronicling the activities of the honored Oba. The vast array of castings in bronze and leaded brass taken from the palace of the Oba of Benin in 1897 have been dispersed throughout Europe, the United States, and elsewhere. The interest generated by these artworks, along with the ivory carvings and coral regalia, has been a major factor in the development of Benin studies.

When you purchase this piece, you are purchasing a piece of history, namely the fascinating and majestic history of Benin City. A little-known fact is the world's largest man-made structure was made in Nigeria. Its length was over 9,900 miles, about four times that of the Great Wall of China. The Wall of Benin was used for defense of the historical Benin City, now the capital of the present-day Edo State of (southern) Nigeria. The Benin Walls were ravaged by the British in 1897. Other accomplishments of the Benin Kingdom are their disciplined army, infrastructure, and of course, royal artworks. More significantly, perhaps, is that art from Benin has come to represent the achievements of the Nigerian peoples to reaffirm links to the autonomy of a precolonial past.



DIMENSIONS

9" x 9" x 25"

MEDIUM

One of a Kind Hand Carved Bronze

REGION

Nigeria, West Africa

TRIBE

Benin Kingdom

APPROXIMATE AGE

Made in 1988

AVAILABILITY

One of a Kind

PRICE

\$2,250

ARTWORK URL

<https://yorksshonagallery.com/products/benin-kingdom-king>

Interactive 360 Degree View can be found at the above URL



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PAGE 1 OF 1 • PREPARED FOR WWW.YORKSSHONAGALLERY.COM