

MOM'S JOY ROOM

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

2964 Fairmont Road • Morgantown, West Virginia 26501 • (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & APPRAISAL

Hand Carved Horn Elephant & Baby Sculpture

Vintage • Carved Horn on Turned Wood Base • Approximately 10" Tall

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$85 – \$165

Reflects the mother-and-baby two-figure composition, polished finish, and intact turned wood base.



Mother elephant with trunk raised; the baby carved in relief at her side



The polished horn surfaces catch the light, revealing the material's natural banding

History & Background

This sculpture is a vintage example of a long folk-art tradition: carving animal figures from animal horn, most often water buffalo or ox horn. In villages across Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent — and later in tourist-craft workshops serving travelers — horn carving developed as a

natural extension of agricultural life, putting every part of the animal to use. The carver works with the horn's natural taper, curve, and translucency, and the best pieces show a real understanding of the material: where to leave the dark outer layer, where to carve through to the paler inner layers, and how to let the natural banding of the horn suggest texture.

Here, the carver has used those layers skillfully. The mother elephant stands with her trunk raised and tusks intact, her hide suggested by the smooth dark polish of the outer horn. Beside her, a baby elephant is carved in relief against a grassy ground, worked into the paler cream-colored layer of the horn — a natural contrast that reads almost like scrimshaw, and the sign of a carver who planned the piece around the material's grain rather than fighting it. The sculpture is mounted on a turned wood base that grounds the composition and gives it a finished, display-ready presence.

Mother-and-baby compositions hold particular appeal for collectors of this craft, as they show two animals in a single piece of material and demonstrate the carver's range. This piece joined the Mom's Joy Room collection in September 2026, alongside the shop's other carved horn sculptures — a buffalo horn horse and a buffalo horn eagle — forming a small but distinguished gathering of the carver's art in an uncommon material.

Notable Information

- ◆ Material: natural animal horn (water buffalo/ox type), polished
- ◆ Subject: mother elephant with raised trunk and tusks, baby elephant carved in relief
- ◆ Two-layer carving technique: dark outer horn against cream inner layer, giving contrast to the baby and ground
- ◆ Base: turned wood, original to the piece
- ◆ Size: approximately 10" tall
- ◆ Condition: excellent — polished surfaces intact, no cracks or chips noted, secure mounting
- ◆ Attribution: stylistic — no maker's mark present; consistent with Southeast Asian/Indian tourist-craft horn carving tradition
- ◆ Joined the collection: September 2026

Collector's Notes

This sculpture is attributed by style rather than by mark — carved horn pieces of this type were produced across many workshops in Asia, and carvers rarely signed their work. The attribution is based on technique, material, and form consistent with the Southeast Asian and Indian horn-carving traditions. Comparable carved horn elephants on wood bases generally trade between \$30–75 for simple single-figure pieces and upward of \$200 for elaborate multi-figure "family" scenes; the mother-and-baby composition, the polished

finish, and the intact original base place this piece comfortably in the middle of that spectrum.

*"The herd never forgets — and neither does the horn. Somewhere a carver's
patient hands gave these two a memory that will outlast us all."*

Mom's Joy Room
2964 Fairmont Road
Morgantown, WV 26501

Sandy Wade

PROPRIETOR

September 27, 2026