



Large Black Madonna And Child Moreneta De Montserrat 19th Century



2 590 EUR

Signature : Ecole Catalane du 19ème siècle

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Painted wood

Height : 83 cm

Description

This exceptional statue of the Black Virgin of Montserrat is a work of carved wood and stucco, richly polychromed, and with remarkable details such as the eyes of Mary and the Child Jesus in sulphide. Probably dating from the medieval or post-medieval period, this piece bears witness to a spiritual and artistic tradition deeply rooted in Catalonia.

The imposing dimensions (83 cm high, 38 cm wide, and 43 cm deep) reinforce the visual and symbolic impact of this statue, which is distinguished by its patina and the traces of wear related to time: wear, cracks and some losses attest to its antiquity and authenticity.

Presence in the History of Art:

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The Black Virgin of Montserrat, affectionately known as La Moreneta, is an emblematic figure of the Catholic faith in Catalonia. This statue, venerated for centuries, is associated with an important Marian cult. Declared patron saint of the dioceses of Catalonia by Pope Leo XIII in 1844, she embodies a unique cultural and religious heritage.

The darkening of the skin tones, attributed to a natural oxidation of the lead-based pigments used in the past, gave rise to the strong symbolism of the Black Virgins, associated with deep mystical and spiritual meanings. This natural transformation prohibits any return to the original color, reinforcing the singularity of these sculptures.

Graphic details:

Posture and expression: The Virgin is represented in majesty, seated on a throne, holding the Child Jesus on her knees. The serenity and gravity of the expressions convey a spiritual and protective presence.

Materials: The carved wood, covered with stucco and polychrome, bears witness to remarkable craftsmanship. The sulphide eyes add a particular sparkle, making the gaze of the Virgin and Child almost alive.

Natural wear and tear: Visible cracks and gaps reinforce the ancient and sacred character of the work, silent witnesses to its history and venerable journey.

History of the scene:

The Black Virgin of Montserrat is associated with the monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat, perched on the sacred mountain of the Catalans. She has been the object of intense devotion for centuries. Her feast day is celebrated on April 27, an important date for the faithful who come on pilgrimage to pay homage to La Moreneta.

Scenography and colors used:

The palette of this statue is composed of bright but aged colors, typical of the Black Virgins:

Gold and blue tones: Used for Mary's clothing, these colors symbolize royalty and spirituality.

Dark skin tones: Resulting from natural oxidation, they give the work its identity as a Black Virgin, imbued with mysticism.

General patina: The worn polychromy and the marks of time add a dimension of veneration and authenticity to the whole.

The shipment will be prepared with the greatest care, insured on a pallet to guarantee the safety of this rare and precious piece.

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