



Large Chinese Equestrian Statue (19th Century)



250 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Height : 31,50cm

Description

Chinese equestrian statue painted in polychrome in the Tang Dynasty style. These terracotta statues were used as funerary objects in the 10th century, but they became popular in Europe as decorative objects from the 19th century onward. This statue is a fine example. This sculpture is inspired by the typical equestrian statues of the Tang Dynasty. The Tang Dynasty (618-960) is generally considered the height of Chinese civilization and ushered in a long period of prosperity, peace, and stability. Most tricolor pottery was produced as funerary objects (minqi). Several large workshops dedicated to the production of these statues were established around the capital, Changan. Pottery of all sizes and types was placed in the tombs of high-ranking people. These included statues

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intended to protect the tomb against evil spirits from the underworld and statues intended to glorify the gods. The horse was considered the most valued animal figure and was often produced in molds. Animals were considered a status symbol at the time and were particularly popular at the imperial court. They had their own names, and some Tang emperors had portraits of their favorite horses painted by court painters. Even in the afterlife, the Chinese elite did not want to miss out on their favorite horses. The horse also symbolizes speed, strength, and energy in the traditional Chinese zodiac. Condition: This statue shows signs of normal wear, but no visible damage or cracks. Provenance: This statue is part of a private collection in Ghent consisting of several similar statues purchased from various dealers in Belgium and France between May 2001 and August 2011, based on the owner's inventory.