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Gold Ring With An Intaglio Of A Goat-headed Rhyton. Greek, 6th-4th Century B.c.

8 700 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gold



Description

Carnelian Intaglio of a Goat-Headed Rhyton, Mounted in a Modern Gold Ring. Eastern Mediterranean, likely Greek, 6th-4th century B.C. Later mount and repair, modern Ring size: UK Q / US 8 / EU 57 Bezel: 2.2 × 1.7 cm Weight: 8.56 grams An oval carnelian intaglio engraved with a depiction of a goat-headed rhyton. The vessel terminates in the forepart of a recumbent wild goat, the head rendered in profile with elegantly arched horns, pronounced muzzle, and carefully incised eye. The neck of the rhyton rises in a conical form behind the goat, its surface decorated with diagonal and cross-hatched incision suggesting ribbing or chased metalwork. The engraving is executed with a confident hand, showing particular sensitivity to the anatomy of the animal and the volumetric play of the vessel's

Dealer

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form. A small triangular area at the top left of the stone has been repaired in gold; both the repair and the present gold ring mount are modern additions. The subject--a rhyton terminating in an animal protome--belongs to a well-established tradition in Eastern Greek and Achaemenid art of the late Archaic and Classical periods, in which zoomorphic libation vessels were used in ritual and ceremonial contexts. Goat-headed rhyta, though less commonly preserved in glyptic media, are attested in silver and ceramic examples, notably from Asia Minor and Thrace. The stylised horned animal, here likely a wild goat or ibex, is associated with vitality and mountain symbolism, while the rhyton itself signals elite drinking culture and votive use. The use of carnelian is typical of high-quality glyptic production in the 6th to 4th century BC, valued for its durability and ability to take a fine polish. The style and iconography suggest an Eastern Mediterranean origin, most probably Ionian or Anatolian. References: For rhyta of similar form and iconography, compare the silver and gold animal-headed rhyta from the Panagyurishte and Derveni Treasures (Seipel, W., *Antike Goldschmiedekunst*, Vienna, 1980). A rhyton terminating in a goat protome from the 5th century BC is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (acc. no. 1989.281.15).