



Silver Skull And Crossbones From The Base Of A Crucifix. Italian, 17th Century.

1 200 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Sterling silver



Description

Silver Skull and Crossbones Appliqué from the Base of a Crucifix Probably Italian, 17th century
Measurements
Width: 7.2 cm
Height: 5 cm
Depth: 2.6 cm (rod extending a further 4 cm; total depth 6.6 cm)
Weight: 80 grams
A cast silver appliqué in the form of a skull with crossed tibia bones, originally mounted at the base of a crucifix. The skull is hollow at the reverse, with a projecting silver rod terminating in a threaded end for secure attachment to its parent object. The surface displays finely chased details including engraved cranial sutures and individually modelled teeth, unevenly defined to emphasise the macabre aspect. The eyes and nasal cavities are deeply recessed, producing a dramatic chiaroscuro effect. The appliqué embodies the dual function of Golgotha symbolism--recalling

Dealer

Belle Histoire

Early European sculpture, works of art and jewellery

Tel : +44 (0) 7906 300197

58 Davies Street

London W1K 5LP

the 'place of the skull' where Christ was crucified, traditionally associated with the bones of Adam--as well as the broader vanitas and memento mori themes central to Counter-Reformation devotional art. Its presence at the foot of the Cross would have provided a vivid reminder of mortality and redemption, enhancing the object's meditative power. The underside of the right-hand crossbone bears a set of small, unidentified silver hallmarks. There is evidence of an historic repair to the lower right bone, which has been reattached in antiquity.