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Silver Skull Pendant. Probably Italian, 18th-19th Century.



1 460 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Description
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Silver Skull Pendant Probably Italian, 18th-19th century Measurements  $5.2 \times 4$  cm Weight 50 grams Cast in solid silver, this pendant takes the form of a human skull, modelled with pronounced cheekbones, deep-set eye sockets, and a sharply defined nasal cavity. The interior is hollowed, revealing casting traces and a looped suspension ring integral to the design. The surface shows a darkened patina, consistent with age and wear, with areas of lighter toning at the high points of the relief. The skull, a potent emblem of memento mori and vanitas, served as a meditation on mortality and the transience of earthly existence. Such skull pendants were often incorporated into devotional or penitential objects, particularly rosaries, where they functioned as tactile reminders of death and

Dealer
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salvation. The weight and solidity of the present example suggest it may originally have formed the terminal pendant of a rosary, possibly used by a monastic or confraternal order. ConditionIn good condition, with age-consistent wear and surface oxidation. The interior retains old casting residues and minor irregularities from manufacture.