Etruscan Votive Head -- Certificate Of Authenticity + Qed Test + Expert Document



3 950 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

Etruscan anatomical votive head in terracotta, examined under ×10 magnification and raking light. The modelling, of strong sculptural presence, shows a full, frontal face framed by a short, wavy hairstyle, heavy eyelids, and a slightly open mouth with gently outlined lips. A broad halo or cappuccio encircles the head. The surface, brick-red in tone with light calcareous veils and small greenish oxidations, bears ancient wear: coherent abrasions on the raised areas and small losses of slip. At the lower front, a dry ancient fissure remains visible without affecting structural stability. No signs of restoration or modern reworking.The thermoluminescence test QED (ref. QED2533/EG-0105, photos included) confirms a last firing between 2,300 and 2,800 years ago (1?), fully consistent with the Etruscan

Dealer

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attribution. A completely authentic piece, with no repainting or filling.Technical characteristicsType: Anatomical votive head.Culture: Etruscan.Period: 5th-4th century B.C.Material: Orange-red terracotta with medium grain.Technique: Press-moulded clay with visible hand reworking (hair, lips, eyelids).Dimensions: 21.8 × 17.3 × 11 cm.Condition: Good overall condition; ancient dry fissure at the lower front, minor peripheral chips and coherent abrasions; intact burial patina; no visible restoration.Provenance: Former Belgian private collection -> Spanish antiquarian (2022) -> Belgian private collection (Brussels).Authenticity: QED thermoluminescence test no. QED2533/EG-0105; homogeneous results consistent with the period; certificate of authenticity and expert report included.Historical contextIn classical Etruria, anatomical votive offerings were deposited in sanctuaries and healing shrines as part of therapeutic rituals: the devotee presented an image of the body part to be healed or offered thanks for a recovery. Votive heads, rarer than individual limbs, encapsulate the entire person in a gesture of piety, often associated with Menrva (Minerva) or Aplu (Apollo). Their creation combined serial moulding with manual retouching, achieving a balance between stylized devotion and individualized expression.Formal and material analysisMorphology: Full, frontal face with rounded chin, broad forehead, and thick encircling halo.Expression: Half-closed eyes, slightly open mouth, strong modelling of nose and cheekbones.Hair: Wavy locks with incised detailing and visible tool marks under raking light.Patina and deposits: Brick-red surface with calcareous veils, small green mineral oxidations, and ancient encrustations in the recesses.Manufacture: Press-moulded terracotta with tool retouching; orange-red clay of medium grain, homogeneous structure.Alterations: Stabilized ancient fissure at the base, minor edge wear, noble surface erosion without structural

weakness.Scientific validation: QED TL test (ref. QED2533/EG-0105) -- consistent age range between 2,300 and 2,800 years (1?).Cultural significanceThrough the authenticity of its surface, the truth of its patina, and the scientific confirmation of its ancient firing, this votive head stands as an exceptional witness to Etruscan therapeutic and ritual practice. A work of museum quality, it unites devotion, the symbolism of the body, and the refined craftsmanship of the Etruscan world.Provenance & guaranteesDocumented provenance; certificate of authenticity, expert report, and QED test included.Sale conducted within a recognized network of antiquarians, in accordance with the highest international standards of the ancient art market.