Romanesque Figured Capital, Rhône Valley



22 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Height : 30 cm

Description

Three-sided applied capital in marble, carved with two monstrous busts of winged sirens with serpentine tails; Romanesque work from the Rhône Valley, probably between the Velay and the Rhône regions, second half of the 12th century. The main face shows a zoomorphic mascaron (short muzzle, upright ears) flanked by two winged sirens whose serpentine bodies unfold onto the adjoining faces. Between the mascaron and the astragal emerge stylised acanthus leaves. The sirens' faces are set into the angles of the capital, reinforcing the three-dimensional reading of the piece. Their cylindrical necks are encircled by a beaded headband worked with the drill. This is neither the classical bird-sirens nor the pure fish-sirens; the winged, scaly body ending in a fin suggests a

Dealer

Galerie Ekinium
Ancient art and medieval sculpture
Tel : +33 (0) 769375370

10 rue de Penthièvre
Paris 75008

creature at once aerial, chthonic and marine, evoking the three realms of sky, earth and sea. Full dossier available upon request. Details at www.ekinium.com