



## Neolithic Jade (nephrite) Statuette - Hongshan Culture (attributed)

1 200 EUR



Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Other

Width : 4,8

Height : 9,2

Depth : 4,2

### Description

Nephrite Statuette, attributed to the Hongshan Culture

Northeastern China - Neolithic period (c. 4700-2900 BC)

This intriguing nephrite statuette is attributed to the Hongshan culture, one of the most important and still partially enigmatic Neolithic civilizations of northeastern China. The sculpture represents a stylised female figure, traditionally interpreted by scholars as a symbolic evocation of fertility, a recurring theme in Chinese Neolithic art.

The figure is characterised by deliberately schematic forms, pronounced frontality and an emphasis on bodily attributes, all of which correspond closely to the known iconographic vocabulary of works attributed to the Hongshan culture. Carved from carefully polished nephrite,

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Mobile : 0672138806

64 rue Grande

Orbec 14290

the surface presents a smooth, satiny finish typical of ritual or symbolic objects from this period.

Two ancient perforations visible at the neck suggest a possible use as an amulet or pendant, a practice attested for certain Neolithic ritual objects. The statuette is now presented on a modern black marble base, fixed with museum-grade conservation adhesive, allowing safe handling without affecting the integrity of the object.

### Cultural Context

Long marginalised in Chinese historiography, the Hongshan culture is today recognised as one of the major cultures of the Chinese Neolithic, particularly for its early and highly symbolic use of jade. Nephrite objects attributed to this culture are generally understood as ritual, votive or symbolic works, likely connected to cosmological, social or religious beliefs. Their precise function, however, cannot be determined with certainty.

### Attribution and Scientific Caution

There is no absolute certainty regarding the exact dating or original function of this statuette. The attribution to the Hongshan culture is based on a convergence of criteria: stylistic characteristics, material, and formal typology comparable to works held in museum collections. In accordance with scholarly and market practice, this piece is therefore offered as attributed to the Hongshan culture, and not as a definitive attribution.

### Details

Culture: Attributed to the Hongshan culture

Period: Neolithic, c. 4700-2900 BC

Material: Nephrite

Condition: Good overall condition, with an old polished surface; no visible restoration

Dimensions and weight:

Height (sculpture): 9.2 cm

Width: 4.8 cm

Depth: 4.2 cm

Weight (sculpture): 197 g

Total height with base: 13 cm

Base dimensions: 7.5 × 7.5 cm

Total weight (sculpture + base): 0.65 kg

Reference bibliography (for information)

David C. Anderson, Hongshan Jade Treasures:  
The Art, Iconography and Authentication of  
Carvings from China's Finest Neolithic Culture,  
McFarland & Company, 2014.

Photographs and further information are available  
upon request.