



China - Caparisoned Horse - Northern Wei - T1



5 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Length : 20 cm

Width : 15,5 cm

Height : 26 cm

Description

Sculpture depicting a funerary horse on a rectangular base, made of gray terracotta with a surface densely patinated by time. The figure is distinguished by a more vertical and wiry construction than the large parade horses of later periods: the high, arched neck supports a narrow head with firm modeling, while the compact and solid body rests on four slender but steady legs. The animal is lavishly harnessed: the bridle and its fittings are marked in relief, and the entire harness is rendered with a decorative emphasis typical of these funerary series. The saddle is covered with a blanket with open panels, falling down the sides in two wide lateral panels. This very telling detail clearly distinguishes these models from Tang horses, whose blankets and caparisons more often follow other drapery

Dealer

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patterns and a more monumental scale. Here, the open panels, as if cut out and suspended, visually structure the piece and underscore the ceremonial nature of the equipment. The object is

accompanied by a thermoluminescence test, confirming the authenticity of the dating.

Origin: China Period: Wei Dynasty (Northern

Wei, 386-534) Dimensions: Height: 26 cm;

Length: 20 cm; Width: 15.5 cm Condition: Good

overall condition. Satisfactory and consistent preservation. General antique patina, with wear, abrasions, and superficial losses consistent with age. Traces of old weathering and soiling are visible, but do not impair legibility. No modern decorative additions are observed; the object retains an authentic and unrestored character. Provenance: French private collection