



Ivory Memento Mori Northern Europe, Probably England, Early 19th Century (empire Period)?



2 250 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Ivory

Description

A finely carved miniature ivory sculpture depicting a delicately rendered hand holding a skull, a traditional memento mori emblem inviting quiet reflection on the transience of human existence. The restrained gesture privileges intellectual contemplation over theatrical expression, reflecting the sober moral aesthetic characteristic of early nineteenth-century Northern European productions intended for learned cabinets of curiosities and private libraries. The deliberate disproportion between the hand and the skull is not the result of a naturalistic approach, but a conscious symbolic choice: the skull is not represented as an anatomically scaled object, but as a condensed idea, held and mastered by human thought. The deliberately simplified anatomy, combined with

Dealer

Collection

Collection

Mobile : 0032475266745

Mons 7000

the absence of ornamental excess, confirms its vocation as an object of private meditation rather than mere decoration. By its miniature scale and independent construction, the ivory hand could also have been conceived as a wearable object, potentially intended to be pinned to a garment, in the manner of a personal memento mori rather than a purely static cabinet piece. The sculpture is presented on its original period base, composed of bone and ebonised wood, typical of early nineteenth-century scholarly and symbolic objects. The ivory hand is independent from the base and secured only by a discreet pin, in accordance with original period mounting practices. It is preserved in perfect condition, showing only minor age-related surface soiling and patina consistent with its age. The base is in good condition. Dimensions: Head: height about 3 mm, width 2 mm Hand: about 3.4 cm Total height with base: about 7.6 cm A rare cabinet object of strong symbolic charge, representative of the Northern European culture of vanitas and moral reflection in the early nineteenth century. Dimensions: Head: height about 3 mm, width 2 mm Hand: about 3.4 cm Total height with base: about 7.6 cm A rare cabinet object of strong symbolic charge, representative of the Northern European culture of vanitas and moral reflection in the early nineteenth century.