



Seven Horses Of King Mu - Carved Ivory, Early 20th Century

480 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Ivory

Length : 6,5

Width : 2,5

Height : 6



Description

Set of Seven Horses of King Mu, China, Early 20th Century, Finely Carved Ivory, Dimensions: approx. 6.5 cm long; 6 cm high; 2.5 cm wide. Evoking one of the most captivating tales of Chinese mythology, this harmonious set of seven horses of King Mu is distinguished by the delicacy of its modeling and the expressive variety of its poses. Carved from milky-white ivory, lightly patinated by time, each measuring approximately 6.5 cm long, 6 cm high, and 2.5 cm wide, the animals unfold in a silent choreography: some rearing, others walking or halting, each revealing a unique sensitivity and attentive observation of equine movement. The sculptor's hand is evident in the subtle tension of the necks, the precision of the finely striped manes, and the softness of the forms, lending the

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whole an almost lifelike presence. The balance between stylization and naturalism recalls later interpretations of celestial horses, emblems of power, travel, and spiritual elevation. Presented as a series--a rare and sought-after occurrence--these seven horses form a coherent whole, conceived as a miniature evocation of King Mu's legendary journey to the Western Kingdoms. The traditional series comprised eight; the set offered here, made up of seven perfectly matched subjects, nevertheless retains all the narrative force and visual harmony of this mythical iconography. Their state of preservation, the quality of the material, and the elegance of the composition make them a decorative group of great distinction, typical of the refined workshops of the early 20th century, steeped in classical erudition and a pronounced taste for imperial subjects.