



Standing Devotional Crucifix With Skull Base - Southern Germany - 17th Century



4 000 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Height : 40 cm

Description

This remarkable devotional object takes the form of a slender standing crucifix, finely carved in wood and combining rich theological symbolism with high craftsmanship. The vertical stem rises organically from a deeply carved skull-shaped base resting on crossed bones - an explicit reference to Golgotha, site of the Crucifixion, as well as a powerful memento mori. The skull, treated with expressive naturalism, is enriched by the presence of a finely carved snake snaking across its surface and devouring an apple. This rare and evocative motif refers directly to the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden, establishing a visual and theological link between original sin and Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the Cross. The combination of skull, serpent and fruit constitutes a veritable sculptural meditation:

Dealer

Bergmans Scott Fine Arts

Tribal art (African) , Asian art, European art and curiosities

Mobile : 0032475733376

Fax : scottbergmans@hotmail.com

Limburg

Lommel 3920

death enters the world through sin, but is defeated by the Crucifixion that rises above. From this highly symbolic base rises a slender, tapering stem, supporting the Crucifix. The Corpus Christi, carved in light boxwood, stands out elegantly against the darker wood of the structure. Christ is depicted with elongated proportions and finely modeled anatomy; his bowed head and slumped body convey both physical suffering and spiritual abandon. The perizonium is treated in soft, dynamic folds, characteristic of South German Baroque sculpture. At the top, the cross is surmounted by the carved titulus INRI. The entire composition emphasizes a strong verticality, guiding the viewer's gaze from sin and mortality at the base to redemption at the summit. The work is part of the sculptural language of the entourage of Christoph Daniel Schenck, whose productions are distinguished by their expressive intensity, the finesse of their execution and a particularly sophisticated integration of symbolic elements.