



Saint John The Baptist - Central Italy, 16th Century



5 300 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Stone

Width : 24

Height : 43,5

Depth : 15

Description

Saint John the Baptist Central Italy, XVIe century
Sculpted limestone, traces of polychromy
H 43.5 x W 24 x D 15
This remarkable carved limestone sculpture depicts Saint John the Baptist as a half-length figure, clad in a tunic of camel skin. His face is framed by long, flowing hair cascading over the shoulders and a full beard.

These iconographic attributes, combined with the rough character of the garment, recall the figure of the desert preacher whom medieval and Renaissance tradition readily depicted dressed in animal skins or foliage, as an austere and penitent hermit.

The beard and skin tunic are rendered with striking economy: swift, decisive incisions lend these details a sketched, unfinished quality that,

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far from weakening the work, charges it with a modern energy.

The richly textured surface treatment reveals the influence of central Italian sculptural workshops -- from Umbria or southern Tuscany -- where, at the dawn of the Renaissance, a pronounced taste for ornamental naturalism persisted.

Traces of polychromy remain visible, confirming that the work was originally painted, in keeping with the practice of contemporary workshops.

This piece represents a rare and significant example of popular devotional sculpture.