Cloister Torso Column With Hooked Capital - Italy, XIVe Century



5 500 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Marble

Width : 29

Height : 127

Depth : 27

Description

Twisted Cloister Column with Crocket Capital
Italy, 14th Century
127 × 29 × 27 cm
This refined white marble column is a distinguished example of Italian Gothic architectural sculpture. Its slender shaft is carved with two interlacing helical bands that rise in a continuous spiral, animating the surface through a subtle interplay of light and shadow. The ascending rhythm of the carving imparts a powerful sense of movement and verticality, guiding the eye upward with natural elegance.
The shaft is set on a modern metal base, providing stability to the composition.
Its relatively modest dimensions--127 cm in height with a section of 29 × 27 cm--are characteristic of cloister columns designed to

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support arcades of limited span, as found in Franciscan, Dominican, and Augustinian monasteries throughout central and northern Italy. Such columns were typically arranged in sequences, alternating between plain and twisted shafts, or paired beneath a single arch to enliven the architectural rhythm of the cloister walk.
The capital is carved in the Gothic manner and enriched with bold crocket ornamentation, formed of stylised foliate projections emerging at the angles and mid-faces, beneath a restrained quadrangular abacus. Its refined carving reflects the decorative vocabulary of Italian ecclesiastical architecture in the fourteenth century.
Closely related examples of twisted columns can be observed in the cloisters of San Paolo fuori le Mura and San Giovanni in Laterano in Rome, where the spiral shaft served both structural and decorative purposes. Combining architectural function with sculptural sophistication, the present column embodies the elegance and spiritual aspiration characteristic of the Italian Gothic tradition.