



Artifact - Antiquity - Female Votive Protome In Terracotta - Greek World - Archaeology



195 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Terracotta

Description

Period: 4th-2nd century B.C. Origin: Western Mediterranean Provenance: Former private collection Rare female protome in red terracotta depicting a frontal figure veiled or wearing an enveloping headdress. The face is highly stylized, characterized by large almond-shaped eyes, a prominent triangular nose, and a subtly suggested mouth. The bust, which flares out widely, is enlivened by a radiating drape rendered in a geometric style. This work belongs to the tradition of votive protomes from Mediterranean antiquity, widely found in sanctuaries throughout the Western Greek world. These female representations were placed as offerings in the context of cults associated with protection, fertility, and the cycle of nature. The figure's hieratic frontal pose, its archaic character, and its

Dealer

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deliberate simplification are reminiscent of certain works discovered in the sanctuaries of Sicily and Magna Graecia. While the iconography may evoke the cultic spheres of Demeter or Kore (Persephone), the absence of any preserved attributes precludes a definitive identification. Current research tends to view many of these protomes as female votive representations rather than definitive images of a specific deity.

Description:

- o **Material:** ferruginous red terracotta.
- o **Technique:** casting with manual finishing.
- o **Form:** female protome with a flared bust.
- o **Face:** large stylized eyes, triangular nose, discreet mouth.
- o **Headdress:** veil or wraparound head covering.
- o **Decoration:** radiating drapery covering the chest.
- o **Back:** solid and modeled.
- o **Surface:** ancient patina with traces of burial and residual concretions.

Use: Female protomes were votive offerings placed in sanctuaries and places of worship. They bear witness to religious practices deeply rooted in ancient Mediterranean societies and are among the most characteristic products of Greek coroplasty.

Condition: An old break at the top of the head. Wear and small chips from use. Old deposits and concretions. An old restoration at the neck. Generally well-preserved.

References: Stylistic parallels with the female votive protomes of the Western Greek world published in the corpora devoted to the sanctuaries of Sicily and Magna Graecia. Arthur Muller, *Les protomés féminines de Sélinonte*, Presses Universitaires de Liège.

Dimensions:

- o **Height:** 13.2 cm

Displayed on a wrought-iron stand created solely for photographic purposes. The stand is not included in the sale.

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