



## Head Of A Holy Woman - Burgundy, Circa 15th Century



9 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Stone

Width : 16,5

Height : 21

Depth : 14

### Description

Head of a Holy Woman

Burgundy, c. 15th century

Stone (limestone)

H 21 x L 16,5 x P 14

This fragmentary head is a poignant testament to Burgundian sculpture of the fifteenth century. Carved in limestone, the figure is framed by a finely worked wimple and enveloping mantle, typical of the period's devotional imagery. The half-closed eyes, heavy-lidded and stylized, together with the parted lips, convey an expression of grief and weary resignation. The soft modeling of the cheeks enhances this introspective quality and intensifies the sense of quiet pathos. Despite visible losses the emotive power of the work remains striking. Comparable drapery is found on the Virgin of Ouges in

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Such heads were originally part of larger sculptural ensembles. This example may have represented the Virgin in a Pietà or one of the Holy Women in an Entombment group, figures traditionally placed close to the Crucifixion in late medieval passion cycles. The veil and stylized edging further suggest a female mourner, a type designed to embody compassion and guide the viewer's meditation.

The restrained naturalism of the modeling, with its combination of schematic forms and expressive detail, reflects the style of Burgundian ateliers. It can be compared to works from Burgundy and the Bourbonnais in the second half of the fifteenth century, notably to those associated with Claus de Werve, such as the Virgin of Auxonne, or to the mourners of the Entombment at the Hospital of Tonnerre (1451-1453).

Detached from its original context, this head nevertheless retains its powerful emotive charge, embodying the devotional intensity and emotional realism that define Burgundian sculpture at the end of the Middle Ages.