



Rare "memento Mori" Terracotta Vanity Piece - Late 19th* / Early 20th* Century



2 800 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Terracotta

Length : 30 cm

Width : 34 cm

Height : 21 cm

Description

A rare and spectacular terracotta vanitas, designed in the spirit of Renaissance memento mori. The composition depicts a life-size human skull resting on a richly decorated cushion with tassels. Arranged around it are several symbolic objects: an open book, a quill, an inkwell, and scattered coins. These various elements evoke the brevity of existence and the vanity of earthly possessions: the skull reminds us of the inevitability of death, while the book and pen symbolize knowledge, and the coins symbolize material wealth--all destined to disappear. The work thus draws on the vocabulary of early Flemish and Italian vanitas art, but transposes it in a particularly original way into a three-dimensional sculptural composition, which is much less common than its pictorial

Dealer

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equivalents. The modeling is of exceptional quality. The skull, rendered with striking realism and roughly to human scale, displays a highly convincing anatomical study. The cranial sutures, the teeth, the eye sockets, the folds of the cushion, the pages of the books, and the quills of the pen are rendered with great precision. The terracotta has a beautiful, warm, and nuanced antique patina that enhances the mysterious and meditative character of the piece. A fine piece from the late 19th or early 20th century. One of the pom-poms on the cushion has been restored in the past. Otherwise, the piece is in very good condition. Since the cushion is entirely solid, this sculpture is quite heavy. A rare, powerful, and particularly decorative piece, ideal for enriching a cabinet of curiosities or a collection dedicated to vanities and depictions of death. Dimensions: Width: 30 cm Depth: 34 cm Height: 21 cm We deliver and ship worldwide. Please contact us for an accurate quote.