



Head Of Luohan



5 950 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Height : 29,3

Description

LUOHAN HEAD China, early Qing DynastyMaterialStonewareDimensionsHeight: 29.3 cm, excluding the baseProvenance- Private collection, Brussels, Belgium- Belgian art market, 2025Description This remarkable Luohan head depicts one of the most iconic subjects in Chinese Buddhist art. The term Luohan, derived from the Sanskrit Arhat, refers to a disciple of the Buddha who has attained a high degree of spiritual realization through meditation, discipline, and the study of Buddhism. The depiction of Luohans flourished particularly in China, where they were venerated not only as enlightened disciples of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni, but also as protectors of the Buddhist Dharma. In the Chinese tradition, groups of sixteen or eighteen Luohans became particularly popular, and their

Dealer

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depictions were placed in temples alongside those of the Buddha. Unlike the Buddha, who is generally depicted according to an idealized and strictly codified iconography, the Luohans are often portrayed with highly individualized and deeply human features. Their faces may express age, austerity, contemplation, or even a certain uniqueness. This emphasis on individuality reflects their position between the human and the sacred: they have attained spiritual enlightenment while remaining profoundly human. This head is particularly notable for its quiet intensity and meditative expression. The subtly modeled features, short hair, and elongated earlobes evoke the traditional language of monastic Buddhist sculpture, while the patinated and naturally weathered surface lends the work a remarkable presence and a strong character. Elongated earlobes, frequently depicted in Buddhist art, are traditionally associated with a high degree of spiritual realization and are considered a manifestation of wisdom and detachment from material concerns. Beyond its religious significance, the Luohan occupies a prominent place in the history of Chinese sculpture. From particularly naturalistic depictions of the Liao and Song periods to later interpretations of the Ming and Qing dynasties, artists have used these figures to explore personality, expression, and the human characteristics of the face in a way rarely seen in depictions of other Buddhist figures. A sculptural representation of wisdom, discipline, and inner enlightenment, embodying centuries of Chinese Buddhist artistic tradition.