



Two Horses And Riders, Terracotta Figurines, Boeotia, Archaic Greece, 6th Century B.c.



1 400 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Length : 14

Width : 12

Description

A rare set of two anthropomorphic votive statuettes depicting stylized horses and their riders, who appear to be one with their mounts. Hand-modeled, these pieces exemplify the geometric sculptural style characteristic of the Boeotian workshops during the Archaic period. Horse with painted decoration (red engobe): Height: 10.5 cm; Length: 10 cm The first model (the smaller one) is made of light-colored terracotta, enhanced by a rich linear decoration painted in reddish-brown engobes, highlighting the curves of the horse's neck, chest, and flanks. The rider clings firmly to the stocky neck. Horse with a dark patina Height: 14 cm; Length: 12 cm. The second model features a complementary, streamlined silhouette, characterized by a dark patina and a minimalist interpretation of the

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animal's form. Both riders share the characteristic features of these works: a stylized "bird's beak" head, emblematic of ancient Greek clay sculptors. Votive offerings (sanctuaries) Placed in temples (particularly those dedicated to Poseidon, the god of horses, or to Athena), they served as substitutes or as tangible expressions of prayer. The worshiper would ask for protection for his herd, celebrate an equestrian victory, or assert his status before the

gods.
Condition: Restorations: The larger one has been re-glued in several places (leg, tail). The left hind leg has been reshaped (to improve visibility and stability). Restorations are visible. Otherwise, in good overall condition for pieces of this period: superficial surface wear, slight fading of the engobe, and small chips from use consistent with its age. Provenance: old French collection sold in auction. Legacy and Modernity: There is a clear aesthetic connection between the simplicity of these archaic pieces and the artistic revolution of the early 20th century. Artists such as Alberto Giacometti, Marino Marini, and even Constantin Brâncuși consciously rejected the realist academicism of the 19th century to seek a "primordial truth" in ancient and primitive art.

Alberto Giacometti and Elongated Verticality:

The dark horseman in the background immediately evokes Giacometti's spindly silhouettes. Like the Boeotian craftsman, the Swiss sculptor reduces the human body to its strict linear essence to express a pure, almost spectral presence. Comparative examples:

<https://collections.louvre.fr/ark:/53355/cl0102608>

85 [https://www.bonhams.com/auction/28251/lot/1](https://www.bonhams.com/auction/28251/lot/14/a-boeotian-terracotta-horse-and-rider/)

4/a-boeotian-terracotta-horse-and-rider/ <https://www.christies.com/en/lot/lot-4790202>

These minimalist silhouettes attest to the timeless modernity of Archaic Greek art. Through their graphic simplicity, they transcend the centuries to engage with contemporary art, reminding us that aesthetic emotion often arises from the most absolute minimalism.

<https://www.proantic.com/en/1824818-two-horses-and-riders-terracotta-figurines-boeotia-archaic-greece-6th-century-bc.html>