



Complete Large Gogotte, Oligocene Period, France



16 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Stone

Width : 35

Height : 71

Depth : 26

Description

This remarkable 71 cm-high natural formation perfectly illustrates the raw elegance of the Fontainebleau gogottes. Intact, complete, and without cracks, this piece is a unique mineral masterpiece. Its smooth surface and organic curves evoke clouds or dreamlike landscapes, characteristic of sandstone formations shaped by nature around 30 million years ago. Gogottes are the result of a rare natural cementation process, where calcium carbonate binds to extremely fine quartz grains. These sculptural concretions, created by mineral-rich waters, embody a fascinating dialogue between geology and art. Their soft texture and fluid forms recall the famous Chinese scholar stones, or gongshi, prized for their symbolism and aesthetics. Since the 17th century, gogottes have seduced the French

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nobility. Louis XIV, admiring their singular beauty, had these geological treasures extracted to decorate the gardens of Versailles. Today, they still adorn emblematic places in the Versailles park such as the Enceladus Basin, the Grove of Three Fountains, and the Ballroom. Throughout the centuries, these natural sculptures have inspired artists from Impressionists to Surrealists. Henry Moore, Jean Arp, and Louise Bourgeois all found inspiration in these ethereal forms, evident in their sculptural works. Ideal for a cabinet of curiosities, this gogotte is an exceptional piece combining history, nature and timeless aesthetics. Height with base: 75 cm Dimensions: 71 x 35 x 26 cm