



Mannerist Sculpture In Ile-de-france Limestone, Second Half Of The 16th Century



4 200 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Stone

Width : 21

Height : 64

Description

Mannerist sculpture in Lutetian limestone depicting a Virtue, Île-de-France, second half of the 16th century. Sixteenth-century sculpture in the Île-de-France region underwent a gradual transition from the late Gothic (Flamboyant Gothic) to the assimilation of Italian Renaissance forms, combined with a typically French spirit of elegance and restraint. Under the patronage of Francis I and Henry II, Italian artists (such as Primaticcio and Benvenuto Cellini) worked in Fontainebleau and Paris, introducing Mannerism: elongated bodies, supple musculature, serpentine poses, and a taste for mythological allegory. Unlike the dramatic power of Michelangelo's work in Italy, Parisian sculpture emphasizes grace, the fluidity of drapery, and a sort of aristocratic composure. Our sculpture most likely

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depicts a Virtue: by analyzing the position of the arms--even though they are missing--we can infer that she held her right arm raised, which suggests Justice, who in iconography holds up a scale. In this era, the Virtues were indeed depicted as elegant and graceful young women with idealized physiques; their drapery echoes that of Roman or Greek statues. The statue is unfinished on the back, because in the 16th century many sculptures in France were integrated into monuments, such as the facades of city residences or fountains. The stone from which it was carved--Lutetian limestone--gives it a unique charm: quarried from the Paris Basin, this sedimentary stone takes on a warm, golden hue over time and develops a distinctive porosity due to exposure to the elements. Dimensions H 64 cm L max 21 cm