



17th-century Spanish Polychrome Wooden Statue: Virgin To Be Dressed ("virgen De Vestir")



1 450 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Description

A rare and evocative 17th-century Spanish devotional sculpture of the Virgin Mary, carved in wood and featuring original-style glass eyes, conceived as a traditional Virgen de vestir, or dressable Madonna. This fascinating religious figure is a characteristic example of Spanish Baroque devotional imagery, reflecting the deeply rooted traditions of religious sculpture and popular worship in 17th-century Spain. Traditional Spanish Virgen de Vestir The sculpture belongs to the distinctive tradition of Spanish dressable religious figures, created to be adorned with elaborate garments, embroidered mantles, crowns and other devotional accessories. Unlike fully carved religious sculptures, these figures were constructed with carefully modeled heads and upper bodies, while

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the lower sections consisted of simplified wooden frameworks designed to support ceremonial clothing. The present example retains its characteristic elongated wooden support structure, composed of slender vertical elements rising from a substantial wooden base. This construction allowed the figure to be dressed in richly decorated textiles, transforming it into an impressive devotional image for religious ceremonies, private chapels or ecclesiastical settings.

Expressive Baroque Features and Glass Eyes

The most compelling feature of the sculpture is its beautifully modeled face, with a solemn and introspective expression characteristic of Spanish Baroque religious imagery. The glass eyes introduce a remarkable sense of realism and emotional intensity, reflecting the Spanish sculptural tradition of incorporating different materials to heighten the devotional impact of sacred figures. The delicately modeled facial features, elongated neck and surviving traces of polychromy contribute to the sculpture's powerful historical character. The figure's articulated arms, formed with twisted connecting elements and terminating in carved hands, were designed to allow positioning beneath ceremonial garments.

Authentic Historical Character

The sculpture retains an appealing aged surface, with visible wear, losses to the polychromy and signs of prolonged use. These characteristics reflect the devotional history of the object and contribute to its distinctive antique appearance. The exposed wooden framework offers a fascinating insight into the traditional construction techniques employed by Spanish religious sculptors.

A Rare Collector's Piece

Standing 58 cm (22.8 inches) high, this figure possesses an intimate yet compelling presence. It would make an exceptional addition to a collection of Spanish Baroque sculpture, historical religious art, devotional objects or early European polychrome wood carvings. Particularly interesting is the opportunity to appreciate the sculpture in its undressed state, revealing the structural ingenuity

normally concealed beneath elaborate ecclesiastical garments. A rare and historically evocative 17th-century Spanish Virgen de vestir, distinguished by its expressive glass-eyed face, traditional articulated construction and remarkable devotional character.

Origin Spain **Period** 17th Century **Style** Spanish Baroque / Religious **Devotional Art** **Materials** Carved Wood, Polychromy, Glass Eyes and Articulated Arm **Components** Subject Virgin Mary -- Virgen de Vestir (Dressable Madonna) **Dimensions** Height: 22.8 in. (58 cm) Width: 10.2 in. (26 cm) Depth: 5.5 in. (14 cm) **Condition** Antique condition consistent with considerable age and devotional use. Visible losses and wear to the original or historic polychrome surfaces, areas of exposed wood, cracks and age-related imperfections. The articulated arms and wooden support structure remain present. The figure is offered without clothing or devotional accessories. Please examine the photographs carefully.

Keywords: Spanish Virgen de Vestir, 17th Century Madonna, Spanish Baroque Sculpture, Dressable Virgin Mary, Polychrome Wood Sculpture, Glass Eyes, Antique Religious Sculpture, Spanish Devotional Art, Baroque Madonna, Articulated Religious Figure, Spanish Colonial Style, Ecclesiastical Antiques, Florin Antiques.