



Dionysus And Ariadne, Terracotta Busts, Italy, 1800



12 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Width : 40 cm

Height : 73 cm

Depth : 30 cm

Description

Dionysus and Ariadne depicted as monumental herms in a dramatic composition, which seem to convey a profound message. The two busts were likely intended to serve as pilaster capitals and are somewhat reminiscent of the Commedia dell'Arte. They have retained a beautiful aged patina and show a few small scratches. Italy, probably Naples, circa 1800. These busts most likely originated from a traditional Neapolitan theater set. A Neapolitan play makes the audience burst out laughing one moment, only to break their hearts the next. This delicate balance between extreme poverty, family tragedies (neorealism), and absurd, boisterous comedy reflects the philosophy of the Neapolitan people: the attempt to overcome life's difficulties through humor. This atmosphere is also evident in the

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faces of these two busts, whose expressions seem to complement the play. Both busts feature lateral tenons that were likely used to secure them to the set.