(memento Mori) Made Of Carved Horn - Alpine Folk Art,



650 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Horn

Description

Unique skull-shaped knob (Memento Mori) carved from horn - Alpine folk art, 19th centuryDescription: A rare and expressive walking stick knob (or tip) carved in the round from solid horn, depicting a human skull (Memento Mori). A work of folk art from the Alpine region, dating to the 19th century.With great sculptural power, this piece attests to the mastery of pastoral and mountain craftsmanship. The carver skillfully exploited the horn's natural color variations: the dark, glossy outer patina contrasts harmoniously with the lighter, fibrous sections exposed by the carving. The facial features are vigorously stylized: deep eye sockets, a pronounced brow ridge, protruding cheekbones, and teeth rendered through regular geometric incisions. The temples

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and nape of the neck are embellished with a pattern of small triangular notches carved with a gouge, reminiscent of cranial sutures.Technical characteristics and state of preservation:Original intended use: The base features a deep cylindrical hole intended for attachment to a wooden shaft (staff) or a metal tang. The natural cavity on the back of the mandible was hollowed out originally. The flattened top of the skull retains the trace of a small central indentation (probably intended to hold a stud or metal insert that is now missing).Material: Hand-carved, engraved, and polished bovine horn.Dimensions: Height 5 cm.Condition: Excellent overall condition with a beautiful antique patina from use. Slight signs of aging and natural grain typical of organic material; no structural damage.A highly charming object, ideal for collectors of Wunderkammer (Cabinet of Curiosities), vanitas, or ancient folk art.Shipping costs will be provided upon purchase request