Imperial Porphyry Fragment - 27 Cm

650 EUR



Period : Before 16th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Marble

Length : 27cm

Width : 16cm

Depth : 11cm

Description

Fragment of imperial porphyry -- Roman periodA significant fragment of imperial porphyry, featuring a partially polished surface and irregular fractures that reveal the stone's structure. Its shape is characterized by a curved cut, likely related to its original function as part of an architectural or decorative ensemble.Imperial porphyry is a purple-colored volcanic rock dotted with small, clear crystals. It was quarried in the eastern desert of Egypt, in the quarries of Mons Porphyrites, which the Romans began exploiting in the late 1st century A.D. Its purple color, a symbol of imperial power, made it a stone closely associated with the Roman emperors. It was notably used to create columns, statues, and imperial sarcophagi. Quarrying ceased around the 5th century, making this stone permanently

Dealer

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inaccessible for extraction in the centuries that followed. Beginning in the Renaissance and continuing under Louis XIV, imperial porphyry was particularly sought after. European artisans salvaged it from ancient monuments to transform it into vases, mortars, and other decorative objects. Thus, unlike most stones used in the decorative arts, imperial porphyry worked in Europe after antiquity generally came from materials quarried during the Roman era.Dimensions: 27 × 16 × 11 cm