A Rosary Bead With Christ And Adam Made Of Bone, Circa 1600



450 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bone

Height : dimensions : 3,1 x 2,5 cm ; hauteur avec socle : environ 9 cm

Description

An interesting rosary bead made of bone, depicting a skull (Adam's head) on one side and theface of Christ wearing the crown of thorns on the other. This small sculpture in the round consists of a main piece, into which asecond element is inserted to allow the rosary cord to pass through. Although the dating of this type of object is often uncertain, this model resembles, in its style, design, and the craftsmanship of its engraving, three beads fromthe collection of Baroness Henri de Rothschild (cataloged under numbers25721, 25723, and 25766 at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs). This piece can thus be dated to the 16th or 17th centuries. As Sophie Motsch points out: "Far fromthe macabre imagery traditionally associated with the depiction of death,these heads, when viewed up close, reveal

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faces that attest to the diversity in the sculptors' craftsmanship--sometimes realistic,sometimes more naive. Anatomical precision sometimes gives way to a whimsical, even amusing, fantasy, thus offering anuninhibited vision of death" (*Not Even Afraid! Collection of BaronessHenri de Rothschild*, Paris, Somogy, 2018, p. 57). Or, as PhilippeMalgouyres notes regarding a three-sided bead (no. 25650 in the Musée des Arts): "of mediocre workmanship, [it is] quite representative ofwhat one might find at the end of a rosary" (*Ivoires de laRenaissance et des Temps modernes. The Louvre Museum Collection*, Paris,Louvre Museum, 2010, p. 301, no. 270). The bead is mounted on amodern rectangular wooden base.Dimensions: 3.1 x 2.5 cm;height with base: approximately 9 cm.Condition: very good.