Finch & Co



LARGE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ALABASTER OIL JAR

A LARGE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ALABASTER OIL JAR
LATE PERIOD 664 – 343 BC
SIZE: 18.5CM HIGH, 13CM DIA. – 7¼ INS HIGH, 5 INS DIA.

LITERATURE

EGYPTIAN ALABASTER IS A FORM OF LIMESTONE OR CALCIUM CARBONATE MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS TRAVERTINE THAT WAS QUARRIED IN PHARAONIC TIMES IN THE AREA OF MIDDLE EGYPT. FROM THE EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD ONWARDS IT WAS INCREASINGLY USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FUNERARY VESSELS AS WELL AS STATUARY AND ALTARS. THE ARTISTS OBVIOUSLY CHOSE AND CAREFULLY SHAPED THE STONE TO MAXIMISE THE DECORATIVE EFFECT OF THE NATURAL COLOUR AND BANDING. EGYPTIAN ALABASTER WAS THEIR MOST POPULAR CHOICE OF STONE BECAUSE IT IS SOFT AND RELATIVELY EASY TO WORK AS WELL AS BEAUTIFULLY TRANSLUCENT.