Finch & Co



MEDIEVAL HUMAN SKULL 'MEMENTO MORI'

A SMALL MEDIEVAL HUMAN SKULL 'MEMENTO MORI'
OLD DARK SMOOTH NATURAL POLISHED PATINA
CIRCA 1400 – 1500 AD
SIZE: 13.5CM HIGH, 18CM DEEP, 12.5CM WIDE – 5¼ INS HIGH, 7 INS DEEP, 5 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

SKULLS WERE USED IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD AS VANITAS AND AN ADMONITORY SYMBOL. THEY WERE AN OBJECT OF DEVOTIONAL MEDITATION. ST MARY MAGDALENE IS OFTEN DEPICTED STUDYING A SKULL, AS DURING PRAYER IT BECAME A SYMBOL OF CHRISTIAN REMORSE AND PENITENCE. THE SKULL WAS A WARNING THAT MAN IS NOT DIVINE AND CANNOT ESCAPE HIS IRREVOCABLE FATE; THAT ALL EARTHLY LIFE IS TRANSIENT 'MEMENTO MORI'.