Finch & Co



GERMAN MINIATURE CARVED IVORY SKULL WITH A LOWER JAW

A GERMAN MINIATURE CARVED IVORY SKULL WITH A LOWER JAW
'MEMENTO MORI'
EARLY 18TH CENTURY
SIZE: 2CM HIGH, 1.5CM WIDE, 2.5CM DEEP - ¾ INS HIGH, ½ INS WIDE, ¾ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

SUCH TINY MODELS OF SKULLS WERE VERY POPULAR IN THE BAROQUE PERIOD AND WERE NOT ONLY AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY KUNSTKAMMER SHELF, BUT ALSO ACTED AS CONTEMPLATIVE REMINDERS OF MORTALITY IN AN AGE WHEN MEDICINE WAS STILL AN AMATEUR SCIENCE, EPIDEMICS RAGED ACROSS EUROPE, AND DEATH WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE.