Finch & Co



TIBETAN GILT BRONZE PORTRAIT SCULPTURE OF A LAMA OR BUDDHIST HIERARCH

A SMALL TIBETAN GILT BRONZE PORTRAIT SCULPTURE OF A LAMA OR BUDDHIST HIERARCH STANDING ON A LOTUS PEDESTAL

16TH / 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 7.5CM HIGH – 3 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

THIS FINE LITTLE CAST BRONZE SCULPTURE PORTRAYS A LAMA OR BUDDHIST HIERARCH WEARING TRADITIONAL TIBETAN MONASTIC COSTUME, WHICH CONSISTS OF A SLEEVELESS PATCHWORK JACKET WORN BENEATH A ROBE AND CLOAK. THE LAMA'S HAND GESTURES ARE THOSE THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUDDHA AND INDICATE THE VERY HIGH ESTEEM WITH WHICH THE LAMA MUST HAVE BEEN REGARDED. HIS RIGHT HAND FORMS THE TEACHING GESTURE 'DHARMACAKRAMUDRA' WHILE IN HIS LEFT HAND HE CARRIES THE THREE JEWELS.

THE TIBETAN PEOPLE VENERATE THEIR BUDDHIST TEACHERS AND THESE SMALL SCULPTURES WERE MADE TO BOTH COMMEMORATE THEM AND TO BE EASILY TRANSPORTED AND INSTALLED IN A MONK'S PRIVATE QUARTERS OR MONASTIC HALLS WHERE THEY SERVED AS REMINDERS OF THE INSPIRED TEACHINGS OF THE HIERARCH.