

Finch & C^o



MEMENTO MORI OF A CARVED WOODEN SKELETON

AN UNUSUAL MEMENTO MORI OF A CARVED WOODEN SKELETON

HIS TATTERED SCRAPS OF SKIN CRAWLING WITH WORMS MADE OF WAX LYING IN A PAINTED PINE COFFIN WITH TWO
HINGED FLAPS. SOUTH GERMAN

LATE 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 27CM LONG, 7.5CM HIGH, 10CM WIDE – 10½ INS LONG, 3 INS HIGH, 4 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

‘SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI’ – THUS PASSES THE GLORY OF THE WORLD

DEATH HAS LEFT ONLY BARE BONES, DECAY AND WORMS AND THIS MEMENTO MORI SUCCESSFULLY ILLUSTRATES THE
WARNING THAT MAN CANNOT ESCAPE HIS FATE. THE INEVITABILITY OF DEATH MUST BE ACCEPTED AND THESE OBJECTS
WERE MADE TO FUNCTION AS CHRISTIAN REMINDERS THAT ALL ARE MADE EQUAL IN DEATH. THEY HELPED
STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE OF THOSE WHO LOOKED UPON THEM TO CARE MORE FOR THEIR SOULS THAN THEIR
WORLDLY GOODS, AND SO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM ETERNAL DEATH AND RISE AGAIN ON JUDGEMENT DAY.