Finch & Co



FLEMISH CARVED BOXWOOD VANITAS OF A HUMAN SKULL

A FINE FLEMISH CARVED BOXWOOD VANITAS OF A HUMAN SKULL
RESTING ON A PAIR OF CROSSED HUMAN BONES, A SNAKE TRAVELLING THROUGH THE NASAL CAVITY AND AROUND THE SKULL TO REACH AN APPLE
MID 17TH CENTURY
SIZE: 7CM HIGH, 10CM WIDE, 7.5CM DEEP – 2¾ INS HIGH, 4 INS WIDE, 3 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE SNAKE HOLDS AN APPLE IN ITS JAWS IN AN ALLUSION TO ADAM, THE FALL, THE MORTALITY OF MAN AND THE TRANSITORY NATURE OF LIFE. IT IS WARNING THE VIEWER 'MEMENTO MORI', AND IS ADMONISHING HIM TO DO PENANCE.