Finch & Co



SOUTH GERMAN FINELY CARVED BAROQUE DEVOTIONAL IVORY FIGURE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS HIS EYES OPEN 'CHRISTO VIVO'

A SOUTH GERMAN FINELY CARVED BAROQUE DEVOTIONAL IVORY FIGURE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS HIS EYES OPEN 'CHRISTO VIVO'

DAMAGE TO THE FEET. SMOOTH OLD SILKY PATINA

LATE 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 16CM HIGH – 6¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

THE IMAGE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS IS DEPICTED EITHER WITH HIS EYES OPEN OR WITH THEM CLOSED. 'CHRISTO VIVO' SHOWS HIM WITH HIS EYES OPEN EXPRESSING HIS TRIUMPH OVER DEATH AND SIN, AND BY THE MID 17TH CENTURY THE TWO ICONOGRAPHIES OF 'CHRISTO VIVO' AND 'CHRISTO MORTO' EXISTED CONCURRENTLY. THE IMAGES THAT PRESENT CHRIST AS DEAD 'CHRISTO MORTO' SHOW HIM NO LONGER SUFFERING, BUT CALLING THE BELIEVERS ATTENTION TO THE WOUNDS OF HIS TORTURE AND TO THE FRAILTY OF HIS HUMAN FLESH.