Finch & Co



FINE AND LONG ANTIQUE NARWHAL TUSK 'MONODON MONOCEROS'

A FINE AND LONG ANTIQUE NARWHAL TUSK 'MONODON MONOCEROS'
A SMOOTH PATINA ON AN OLD SPIRALLING TWIST
18TH – EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 189CM HIGH – 74½ INS HIGH – 213.5CM HIGH – 84 INS HIGH (WITH STAND)
SEE FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO.7, ITEM NO.129, AND CATALOGUE NO.16, ITEM NO.48, FOR OTHER EXAMPLES
CITES DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT

LITERATURE

THE ALABASTER BELUGA'S DARK COUSIN, THE NARWHAL IS NOT A CONVENTIONALLY BEAUTIFUL ANIMAL AND ITS SPLOTCHY COLOURING REMINDED THE VIKING NORSE SAILORS OF A DROWNED BODY, HENCE ITS NAME, WHICH MEANS 'CORPSE WHALE'. UNLIKE OTHER WHALES WHICH ARE A MORE UNIFORM COLOUR, NARWHALS DIE VERY SHORTLY IN CAPTIVITY, BUT CAN LIVE UP TO 100 YEARS IN THE WILD. THIS GREATLY REDUCES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENTISTS TO STUDY THEM AND IN CONSEQUENCE THEY REMAIN ONE OF THE MOST MYTHICAL AND MAGICAL BEASTS ON EARTH.