Finch & Co



AMERICAN FOLK ART CARVED WOOD WALKING CANE

AN AMERICAN FOLK ART CARVED WOOD WALKING CANE THE HANDLE WITH A PORTRAIT HEAD OF AN AFRO-AMERICAN NEGRO DRESSED WITH A COLLARED SHIRT AND BOW THE EYES INLAID WITH GLASS

CIRCA 1860'S

SIZE: 90CM LONG – 35½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

CANES HAVE LONG BEEN A POPULAR FORM OF EXPRESSION FOR AMERICAN FOLK ARTISTS AND FROM SIMPLE CARVED FIGURATIVE DEPICTIONS THEY COULD DELIVER COMPLEX MESSAGES. CANES WERE USED TO EXPRESS POLITICAL SENTIMENT, ADVERTISE A USER'S PROFESSION, AND EVEN TO PROVIDE SATIRICAL SOCIAL COMMENTARY.
THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE CANE OF A PLANTATION OWNER OR SLAVE TRADER, BUT IT IS ALSO A REMINDER OF THE INDOMITABLE WILL OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, FOR ALTHOUGH MANY AFRICANS WERE MURDERED AND MANY OTHERS WERE PSYCHOLOGICALLY SMOTHERED BY WHITE DOMINATION THE COLLECTIVE WILL OF AFRICANS REFUSED TO ACCEPT WHITE DOMINATION. THE ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICANS BY EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS CERTAINLY VICTIMISED THEM, BUT IT DID NOT LEAVE THEM WITH A VICTIM MENTALITY. AFRICANS WERE NOT VICTIMS, BUT SURVIVORS.