Finch & Co



SOUTH GERMAN CARVED AND GESSOED LIFE-SIZE LIMEWOOD VANITAS OF A HUMAN SKULL

A SOUTH GERMAN CARVED AND GESSOED LIFE-SIZE LIMEWOOD VANITAS OF A HUMAN SKULL
17TH CENTURY
SIZE: 14.5CM HIGH, 17CM DEEP, 11.5CM WIDE – 5¾ INS HIGH, 6¾ INS DEEP, 4½ INS WIDE
SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 3, ITEM NO. 23, FOR A MARBLE VANITAS AND ITEM NO. 45, FOR A RENAISSANCE LIMESTONE MEMENTO MORI

LITERATURE

THE DEPICTION OF THE SKULL IN ART AND SCULPTURE HAS BEEN THE MOST WIDESPREAD PERSONIFICATION OF DEATH FOR OVER 600 YEARS. 'MEMENTO MORI' ACTED AS OBJECTS TO PROVOKE MEDITATION ON THE TRANSIENCE OF LIFE AND AS A REMINDER OF THE HUMILITY OF DEATH. WHATEVER ONE'S STATUS AND WEALTH IN LIFE EVERYONE MUST COME IN THE END TO THE SAME CONDITION.