Finch & Co



SOUTH NETHERLANDISH CARVED IVORY OF THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST

A FINE SOUTH NETHERLANDISH CARVED IVORY OF THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST HIS EYES AND MOUTH OPEN HIS LEGS UNCROSSED LOOKING UPWARDS 'CHRISTO VIVO'

SURFACE CRACKS

CIRCA 1680 – 1700

SIZE: 30CM HIGH – 11¾ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

AMSTERDAM WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL EUROPEAN PORTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF AFRICAN IVORY FROM THE 16TH CENTURY ONWARDS. MANY DEVOTIONAL AND RELIGIOUS IVORIES WERE PRODUCED IN THE NETHERLANDS DURING THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES, BUT THEIR AUTHORSHIP WAS UNRECORDED AS THE CRAFTSMEN BELIEVED THEY WERE IN THE SERVICE OF GOD.

BY THE MID 17TH CENTURY BOTH THE ICONOGRAPHIES OF 'CHRISTO VIVO' AND 'CHRISTO MORTO' EXISTED CONCURRENTLY. IN THIS EXAMPLE CHRIST IS SHOWN ALIVE HIS MOUTH OPEN IN HIS CALL TO GOD, COMBINING THE SUFFERING AND HUMAN FRAILTY OF CHRIST WITH HIS ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OVER DEATH AND SIN.