

Finch & C^o



FRENCH CARVED IVORY FIGURE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

A NORTHERN FRENCH CARVED IVORY FIGURE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS 'CHRISTO VIVO' HIS MOUTH AND EYES OPEN IN HIS CALL TO GOD

MD 17TH CENTURY

€ SIZE: 28.5CM HIGH, 18CM WIDE - 11¼ INS HIGH, 7 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE IMAGE OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST IS CENTRAL IN CHRISTIAN ICONOGRAPHY AND DATES BACK TO AT LEAST THE 5TH CENTURY AD, BUT IT BECAME INCREASINGLY COMMON FROM THE 13TH CENTURY. ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PLACED A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST. PRAYING AND MEDITATING ON CHRIST'S SUFFERING BEFORE A DEVOTIONAL IMAGE, SAINT FRANCIS ASKED OF GOD THAT HE MIGHT FEEL THE PAIN AND GRIEF THAT CHRIST FELT IN HIS PASSION AND HE WAS REWARDED WITH THE STIGMATA, THE WOUNDS THAT CHRIST BORE ON HIS BODY AT THE CRUCIFIXION.