Finch & Co



JAPANESE CARVED IVORY MEMENTO MORI NETSUKE IN THE FORM OF A SKULL

A JAPANESE CARVED IVORY MEMENTO MORI NETSUKE IN THE FORM OF A SKULL THE HIMOTOSHI TO THE BASE WITH SIGNS OF WEAR

UNSIGNED

OLD SMOOTH CREAMY PATINA

LATE EDO PERIOD EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: A. 2.5CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE, 4CM DEEP - 1 INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

SKULLS AND SKELETONS HAVE MORE THAN ONE MEANING IN JAPANESE ART AND CULTURE. AS IN CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS, BUDDHISM ALSO STRESSES THAT ALL PHYSICAL BEAUTY DETERIORATES, THAT ALL LIFE IS TRANSIENT, AND SO IT IS BETTER NOT TO BE VAIN, BUT TO SEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH INSTEAD. AS WELL AS ACTING AS 'VANITAS' SKULLS AND SKELETONS ALSO REPRESENT GHOSTS IN JAPAN. SOME NETSUKE ARTISTS CARVED THEM TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR MASTERY OF ANATOMY.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE ENGLISH COLLECTION