Finch & Co



RARE EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE AND REMARKABLE NORTH INDIAN RAJASTHANI CARVED IVORY FIGURE OF SHRINATHJI THE HINDU GOD KRISHNA AS A YOUNG BOY

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WIDE EYED AND SMILING WITH POLYCHROMED BLACK HAIR A BRAID DOWN HIS BACK WEARING HEAVY SILVER DANCING ANKLETS AND GOLD STUDS IN HIS DELICATELY FORMED EARS

HIS STOUT VOLUPTUOUS BODY PROBABLY ONCE DRESSED FOR FESTIVALS

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 31.5CM HIGH, 13CM WIDE, 9CM DEEP (MAX) - 12¼ INS HIGH, 5 INS WIDE, 3½ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

SHRINATHJI IS THE HINDU GOD KRISHNA MANIFESTED AS A SEVEN YEAR OLD BOY. THE CHILD DEITY WAS ORIGINALLY REFERRED TO AS 'DEVDMAN', 'THE CONQUEROR OF GODS' WHICH REFERS TO THE OVERPOWERING OF INDRA BY KRISHNA IN THE LIFTING OF GOVARDHAN HILL FROM WHICH AS A YOUNG BOY HE EMERGED. SHRINATHJI IS THE CENTRAL DEITY OF THE VAISHNAVA SECT KNOWN AS THE 'PUSHTI MARG', 'THE WAY OF GRACE'. HIS FOLLOWERS 'PUSHTIMARGIS' ARE MOSTLY FOUND IN NORTHERN AND WESTERN INDIA IN AND AROUND RAJASTHAN. THEIR MAIN SHRINE IS IN THE SHRINATHJI TEMPLE IN NATHDWARA WHICH TRACES ITS BEGINNING TO 1669 WHEN THE SECT WAS LIVING IN FEAR OF PERSECUTION BY THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AURANGZEB. TODAY THE NATHDWARA TEMPLE IS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MORE ELABORATE SHRINES DEDICATED TO THE WORSHIP OF KRISHNA IN INDIA.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION OF A WEST COUNTRY TITLED GENTLEMAN