Finch & Co



ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SUMERIAN ROSE-COLOURED CALCITE VOTIVE PENDANT IN THE FORM OF A RECUMBENT BULL

AN ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SUMERIAN ROSE-COLOURED CALCITE VOTIVE PENDANT IN THE FORM OF A RECUMBENT BULL HIS LEGS TUCKED UNDERNEATH HIS BODY HIS STARING FACE WITH SHELL INLAID EYES

A VERTICAL HOLE FOR SUSPENSION DRILLED THROUGH THE BODY

ONE EAR WORN AWAY

SMOOTH SILKY PATINA

CIRCA 3000 BC

SIZE: 4CM HIGH, 5CM WIDE, 2.5CM DEEP - 1½ IN HIGH, 2 INS WIDE, 1 INS DEEP

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CF: SEE GEORGE ORTIZ COLLECTION NO. 4, FOR A SIMILAR EXAMPLE

SEE: FOR ANOTHER SIMILAR RECLINING BULL SOLD BY FINCH AND CO SEE CATALOGUE NUMBER NUMBER, 16, SPRING 2010, ENTRY NUMBER 124

LITERATURE

THE BULL WAS A POWERFUL AMULETIC SYMBOL IN THE ARTS OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. SCULPTED OUT OF A BEAUTIFUL PINKISH LIMESTONE AND THEN HIGHLY POLISHED, THE NATURALISTIC SCULPTURAL FORM IS SIMPLE, YET THE BULL IS BOLDLY EXECUTED AND PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE OF BOVINE POWER. THE DEEPLY INSET STARING EYES COMMAND THE VIEWER'S ATTENTION AND CONVEY THE ESSENCE OF THE BULL. THESE VOTIVE PENDANTS PROBABLY SERVED AS AMULETS AS BY THE TIME THIS WAS MADE, WORKING SEALS HAD TAKEN THE FORM OF CYLINDERS, ALTHOUGH THE SHAPE AND FORM HARKS BACK TO AN AGE WHEN EARLIER MODELS WERE USED BOTH AS SEALS AND AMULETS.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE FRENCH COLLECTION FORMED 1950 - 1970

EX PRIVATE LONDON COLLECTION

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