Finch & Co



A FINE MAORI NEW ZEALAND GREENSTONE 'MANAIA' OR PENDANT CHARM .

A FINE MAORI NEW ZEALAND GREENSTONE 'MANAIA' OR PENDANT CHARM .
18 TH OR EARLY 19 TH CENTURY .
SIZE : 7 CM HIGH, 5 CM WIDE – 2¾ INS HIGH , 2 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

NEPHRITE , NEW ZEALAND'S FORM OF JADE , WAS THE MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION OF THE MAORI AND MANY MONTHS WERE REQUIRED TO MAKE THESE SCULPTURES WITH THE THEN EXISTING TECHNIQUES OF DRILLING AND ABRASION WITH WATER AND SAND .
THE HUMANISTIC CHARACTERIZATION FOUND IN HEITIKI HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY ABSTRACTED IN THIS SMALL SCULPTURE . IT HAS BECOME THE ULTIMATE STYLIZATION OF THE HUMAN PROFILE CARVED IN THE HARD AND INTRACTABLE MEDIUM OF 'POUNAMU' OR MAORI JADE .