Finch & Co



ENGLISH CARVED WHITE MARBLE TOMB SCULPTURE OF A SKULL 'MEMENTO MORI'

AN ENGLISH CARVED WHITE MARBLE TOMB SCULPTURE OF A SKULL 'MEMENTO MORI' ENCLOSED BY THE TWO WINGS OF A BAT

LATE 16TH – EARLY 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 17CM HIGH, 22CM WIDE, 9.5CM DEEP – 6¾ INS HIGH, 8½ INS WIDE, 3¾ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE IMAGE OF THE SKULL FOUND ON A CHURCH MEMORIAL CAN BE BOTH A VANITAS AND A REFERENCE TO THE GRAVE OF ADAM AS IT WAS THOUGHT THAT GOLGOTHA 'THE PLACE OF THE SKULL' AND THE SITE OF CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION, LAY ON THE SITE OF ADAM'S GRAVE. THEOLOGIANS CAME TO SEE JESUS AS THE 'NEW ADAM' WHOSE CRUCIFIXION BRIDGED THE DIVISION BETWEEN HUMANKIND AND GOD THAT ADAM HAD CAUSED.