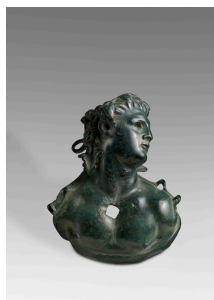


BENJAMIN PROUST
FINE ART LIMITED
—
LONDON



GREECE, HELLENISTIC

*APPLIQUE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT
AS DIONYSUS*

SECOND HALF 4TH CENTURY B.C.

Bronze

10 cm high

Provenance:

Private Collection, Switzerland, since early 1970s

Comparative Literature:

D. Andrianou, "Chairs, Beds, and Tables: Evidence for Furnished Interiors in Hellenistic Greece", *Hesperia*, 75 (2006), pp. 219-66.

B. Barr-Sharar, *The Hellenistic and Early Imperial Decorative Bust*, Mainz, 1987.

43-44 NEW BOND STREET
LONDON - W1S 2SA

+44 7500 804 504
INFO@BENJAMINPROUST.COM

WWW.BENJAMINPROUST.COM

VAT: I26655310
COMPANY N° 7839537

Of exceptionally fine quality, the present bronze applique well exemplifies luxury types of “fulcrum fittings”, or decorative bronze components adorning Greek, Hellenistic and Roman couches, which could be cast in the round or in low relief. The striking pose, seemingly capturing a figure in movement, is typical of Hellenistic sculpture.

The arresting features recall portraits of Alexander the Great, and the pose has antecedents in sculptures such as the Hellenistic Head of Dying Alexander in the Uffizi, Florence (fig. 1). Idealised portraits of great men and rulers disguised as gods or semi-gods were common throughout antiquity, and the present applique could well represent Alexander as Dionysus.

A precedent in ornamental bronzes is for instance found on an applique of Ptolemy I Soter, the Macedonian Greek general under Alexander the Great which, dated to the 3rd Century B.C., is now in The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore (fig. 2).

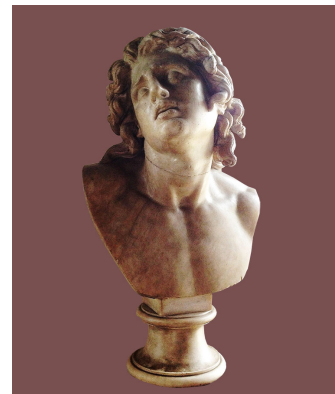


Fig. 1: *Head of Dying Alexander*, Parian marble, Hellenistic, Uffizi, Florence.

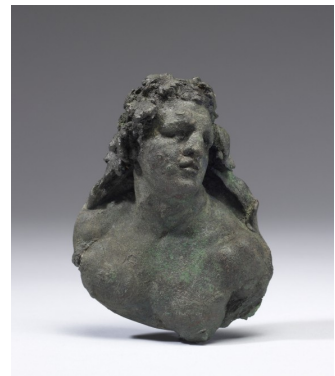


Fig. 2: *Applique of Ptolemy I as Dionysus*, bronze, 3rd Century BC, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore.