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EARLY CYCLADIC II

CYCLADIC HEAD "LYRE SHAPED"

2600 – 2500 BC

White Marble
9.7 x 7.2 x 3.9 cm

Provenance:

N. Koutoulakis, Switzerland, before 1965, group photograph, 1965
Private collection, Belgium 1980s.

Literature

P.G. Preziosi (now Gentle) and S. Weinberg, "Evidence for Painted Details in early Cycladic sculpture", *Antike Kunst* 13 (1970, pp. 4-12, pls. 1-6
E. Hendrix, "Painted Ladies of the Early Bronze Age", *Appearance and Reality: Recent Studies in Conservation*, Metropolitan Museum of Art : reprint of *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, Winter 1997/98, pp. 4-15

A complete report by Pat Getz-Gentle Dated 11 January 2015 is available upon request.

The present figure was most probably found in Kavos southwest Keros, an island in the Cyclades. Kavos was an important site for the Cycladic civilisation. For some 450 years, from about 2750 - 2300 B.C. it was a place of pilgrimage and congregation dedicated to rites and rituals connected with the dead. The pilgrims would break their valuable possessions as to render them useless to the living and consign them to the realm of the dead. Even though

43-44 NEW BOND STREET
LONDON - W1S 2SA

+44 7500 804 504
INFO@BENJAMINPROUST.COM

WWW.BENJAMINPROUST.COM

VAT: I26655310
COMPANY N° 7839537

the figures were not made at Keros more examples of Cycladic sculpture have been found there than anywhere else in the Cyclades.

The head is believed to be from the "Keros Hoard". This unusually large group of fragmentary Cycladic sculpture was collected by agents of the Galerie Segredakis in Paris before the Second World War. The gallery began to sell the objects in the mid 1950's and the pieces dispersed to collector and museums all over Europe and the United States.

This well preserved head appears shield shaped from the front. A broad curved top tapers with a gradual curve to the rounded chin. Viewed in profile, the facial plane describes a continuous curve from crown to chin. The nose emerges from the forehead and repeats the facial curve. Although no pigments remain, vague traces of almond-shaped eyes can be detected. A chip is missing from the right corner. The break in the neck is ancient.