



THE HELLENISTIC WORLD
ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND HIS INFLUENCE





CATALOGUE 19

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# CRAFTING KINGSHIP: ALEXANDER AND HIS SUCCESSORS

And when Lysippus modelled his first statue of Alexander which represented him looking up with his face turned towards the heavens (as indeed Alexander often did look, with a slight inclination of his head to one side), someone engraved these verses on the statue, not without some plausibility, eager to speak seems the statue of bronze, up to Zeus as it gazes: "Earth I have set under foot: Zeus, keep Olympus yourself!"

PLUTARCH, MORALIA, ON THE FORTUNE OF ALEXANDER, 335 A-B

According to ancient literary sources Alexander only let one sculptor carve his portrait, Lysippos of Sikyon (active circa 370–300 BC). Lysippos created the iconic Alexander portrait type identified by his full mass of hair, deep set, upturned eyes, and idealised face, which portrayed him as virile and leonine, a dynamic and heroic ruler.

Alexander understood and exploited the propagandistic powers of portraiture, and the types he created inspired new traditions in the

representations of royalty, gods, and heroes such as Herakles. His sculptural types created a distinctive genre of ruler portraiture that was to have a great influence on his successors.

The Successors (Diadochs), sought to legitimise their rules over Alexander's Hellenistic world by adopting a style for their official portraiture that evoked images of Alexander. Statues and coinage maintained a standardised look of body language, physiognomy, and degrees of divinisation. The use of 'display poses', and depictions of figures in combat, became a universal language of power adopted by Hellenistic kings to validate and promote their dominance.

Nudity also became a common theme among royal statues, reminiscent of the gods but adapted to suit their position as *basileus* (king). This iconography allowed for depictions of exaggerated masculinity and athleticism, both of which were understood motifs of military and political power.



# 1 | A GREEK MARBLE HEAD OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

HELLENISTIC PERIOD, CIRCA 3RD-2ND CENTURY BC

Height: 14 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Private collection, P.R.B., England, formed between the 1920s-1970s, thence by descent With Cahn, Basel, 2010

Private collection, Switzerland, acquired from the above





# 2 | A GREEK BRONZE FIGURE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup>- 2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BC

Height: 16 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Schlomo Moussaieff Collection, Israel and London, formed between 1948–2000 Gorny and Mosch, Munich, 13 December 2017, lot 267 Private collection, acquired from the above



# 3 | A GREEK BRONZE FIGURE OF ALEXANDER DORYPHOROS

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 13 cm

PROVENANCE

Sasson family collection, Jerusalem, Israel, acquired before 2000



### 4 | A HELLENISTIC BRONZE FIGURE OF HERAKLES SMITING THE HYDRA

CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 12.4 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Private collection of a German sculptor, before 1963 Bonhams, London, 28 October 2004, lot 37 Gorny and Mosch, Munich, 22 July 2020, lot 102 Private collection, acquired from the above









### 6 | A GREEK BRONZE FIGURE OF A Ruler, possibly antiochus VII Euergetes sidetes

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA  $2^{\rm ND}$  CENTURY BC Height: 18 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Private collection, Austria, acquired in the 1990s Gorny and Mosch, Munich, 14 December 2007, lot 14 Private collection, acquired from the above





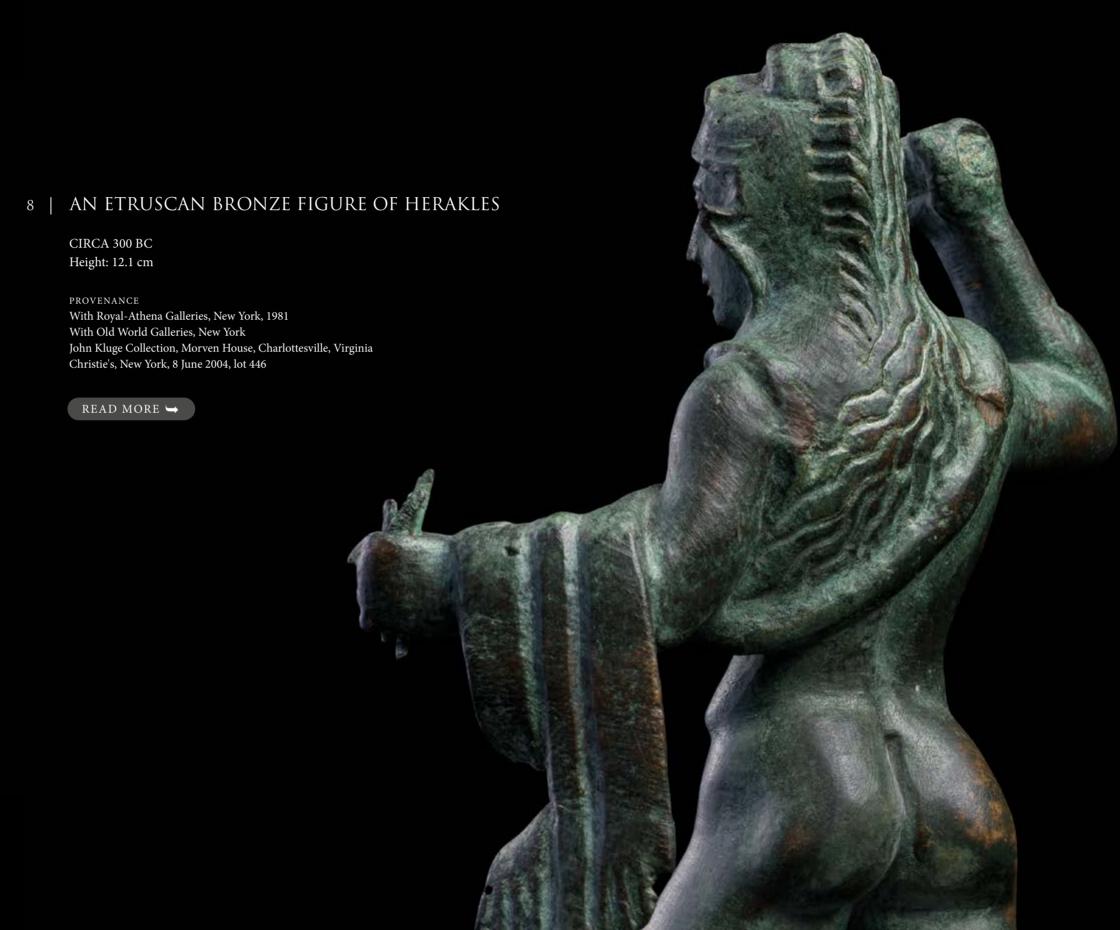
# 7 | A GREEK MARBLE HEAD OF A YOUTH

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 14 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Collection of Pierre and Claude Vérité, acquired between 1930 and 1960, Paris Christie's, Paris, *Archéologie: Collection Pierre et Claude Vérité*, 20 December 2011, lot 112





# 9 | AN ETRUSCAN TERRACOTTA HEAD OF A YOUTH OF THE ALEXANDER TYPE

LATE 4<sup>TH</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 24.1 cm

#### PROVENANCE

With Galerie Simone de Monbrison, Paris, 1982 Dr. J. Ginsberg Collection, Zollikon, Switzerland, acquired from the above on 7 April 1982





# LUXUS: GOLD IN THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

The wealth of Egypt and Cyrene, which I shed no blood to win, now flows into your hands; Palestine and the plains of Syria and the Land between the Rivers are now your property; Babylon and Bactria and Susa are yours; you are masters of the gold of Lydia, the treasures of Persia, the wealth of India—yes, and of the sea beyond India, too. You are my captains, my generals, my governors of provinces.

ARRIAN "THE CAMPAIGNS OF ALEXANDER", TRANSLATED BY AUBREY DE SELINCOURT & REVISED BY J. R. HAMILTON

When Alexander conquered the Persian Empire and seized its vast wealth, he ushered in the 'Hellenistic Age'. Huge amounts of gold and silver passed into circulation and the market for luxury objects exploded as an increasingly affluent society demanded gold jewellery, gems, and semi-precious stones, as well as ornate gold and silver vessels.

Even after the reign of Alexander, his successors for centuries supported flourishing industries of artists and craftsmen, the most important of whom were associated with the Hellenistic royal courts.

# 10 | A GREEK GOLD OAK WREATH

LATE CLASSICAL TO EARLY HELLENISTIC CIRCA 4<sup>TH</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Overall length: 35.8 cm Weight: 37g

PROVENANCE

Loverdos Collection, acquired in London in 1974, thence by descent





# 11 | A PAIR OF GREEK GOLD SPHINX EARRINGS

CIRCA 4<sup>TH</sup>–3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC

Length: 4.6 cm and 4.7 cm; weight: 13.7 g and 11.5 g

#### PROVENANCE

Hans M. F. Schulman (1913–1990) Collection, USA and the Netherlands, acquired in the 1930s, thence by descent

### 12 | A PAIR OF GREEK GOLD EARRINGS In the form of Maenad Heads

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA  $4^{TH}$ – $3^{RD}$  CENTURY BC Height: 2.6 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Louis de Clercq (1882–1901) Collection, Oignies, France, acquired in the late 19th century, thence by descent to his grand-nephew Comte Henri de Boisgelin (1901–1967), rue de Mazarine, Paris

#### PUBLISHED

A. de Ridder, Collections de Clercq, Tome VII, Les bijoux et les pierres gravées, Paris, 1911, p. 55, nos. 235-236.





# 13 | A GREEK GOLD ORNAMENT

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BC Length: 21.8 cm

PROVENANCE

Private collection, Latvia, thence by descent Private collection, UK, acquired in the 1980s



# 14 | A GREEK GOLD MEDALLION OF APHRODITE

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 2<sup>ND</sup>–1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Diameter: 4.9 cm

Weight: 4g

#### PROVENANCE

Louis de Clercq (1882-1901) Collection, Oignies, France, acquired in the late 19th century, thence by descent to his grand-nephew Comte Henri de Boisgelin (1901–1967), rue de Mazarine, Paris

#### PUBLISHE

A.de Ridder, Collections de Clercq, Tome VII, Les bijoux et les pierres gravées, Paris, 1911, p.242, no. 1349 (original label no C-192)



#### 15 | A GRAECO-ROMAN GOLD SNAKE RING

HELLENISTIC TO ROMAN, CIRCA  $1^{ST}$  CENTURY BC- $1^{ST}$  CENTURY AD

Weight: 4.4 g; ring size 'H'; height of snake: 1.5 cm

PROVENANCE

With Nicolas Koutoulakis (1910–1996), Paris and Geneva Private collection, Brussels, acquired from the above circa 1980s

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#### 16 | A GRAECO-ROMAN GOLD PENDANT OF EROS

HELLENISTIC TO ROMAN, CIRCA 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC-1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AD Height: 2.8 cm

#### PROVENANCE

With Merton Simpson, New York, USA, 1970s With Galerie Nefer, Zurich, Switzerland, acquired from the above in 1979 Private collection, Switzerland

#### DIBLICHED

Galerie Nefer, Zurich, Ancient Jewellery from the Classical World, Spring 1995, no. 74. G. Gentili (ed.), Cleopatra. Roma e l'incantesimo dell'Egitto, Skira, Milano, 2013, no. 79, p. 156; p. 273. M. Restellini (ed.), Le Mythe Cléopâtre, Pinacothèque de Paris, 2014, p. 181, no. 112.





### 17 | A GREEK GOLD RING

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 2<sup>ND</sup>-1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Width of bezel: 1.6 cm; ring size UK: I<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (approximate); weight: 4.3 g

#### PROVENANCE

Mr. A.T. Collection, Europe, acquired in the early 1990s or earlier With Antiquarium Ltd, New York, acquired in 1996

#### PUBLISHE

The Good Life, Luxury Objects of the Ancient World, Antiquarium Ltd, 1996, p.30

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# 18 | A HELLENISTIC GOLD ROUNDEL WITH A BUST OF ISIS-SELENE

CIRCA 2ND-1ST CENTURY BC

Height: 3.8 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Silvana Bernhard Collection, Rüschlikon, Switzerland, acquired circa 1970s With Galerie Nefer, Zurich, Switzerland, 1988 Swiss private collection

#### PUBLISHE

A. Wiese, Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Die Ägyptische Abteilung, Mainz, 2001 p. 190, no. 135a.

G. Gentili (ed.), *Cleopatra. Roma e l'incantesimo dell'Egitto*, Skira, Milano, 2013, no. 78, p. 156; p. 273.

M. Restellini (ed.), Le Mythe Cléopâtre, Pinacothèque de Paris, 2014, p. 180, no. 111.





### 19 | A PAIR OF HELLENISTIC GOLD AND GARNET EARRINGS

CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 3.5 cm

PROVENANCE

Nasli Heeramaneck (1902–1971) Collection, New York, acquired in the 1960s

### 20 | A LARGE GREEK ROCK CRYSTAL AND GLASS RING

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA  $3^{RD}$ – $2^{ND}$  CENTURY BC Length of bezel: 3.7 cm

PROVENANCI

Jean Sigrist Collection, Basel, Switzerland, acquired in the 1960s–1970s With Galerie Nefer, Zurich, Switzerland, 2002 Private collection, Switzerland, acquired from the above

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### 21 | A GREEK ROCK CRYSTAL INTAGLIO OF A WOMAN

HELLENISTIC, LATE 3RD-2ND CENTURY BC Length: 2.9 cm

PROVENANCE

Private collection, UK, acquired in the 1980s and 1990s, thence by descent

### 22 | A HELLENISTIC GOLD AND CABOCHON GARNET INTAGLIO RING OF ATHENA

CIRCA 3RD-2ND CENTURY BC

Length of intaglio: 1.2 cm; ring size UK: N (approximate); weight: 3.5 g

PROVENANCE

Mr. C. Collection, New York, 1980s–1990s With Antiquarium Ltd, New York, acquired in 2005

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# 23 | A HELLENISTIC CARNELIAN INTAGLIO OF OMPHALE, SET IN AN ANTIQUE GOLD RING

CIRCA 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Length of intaglio: 2.1 cm; ring size: UK P

PROVENANCE
Private collection, UK, set in a 19th century gold ring

# 24 | A GREEK AMETHYST INTAGLIO OF TYCHE

HELLENISTIC, LATE 2<sup>ND</sup>-EARLY 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 1.6 cm

PROVENANCE

Private collection, UK, acquired in the 1980s and 1990s, thence by descent

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### 25 | A LARGE HELLENISTIC GOLD and banded agate ring

CIRCA 2<sup>ND</sup>-1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC

Width of ring stone: 2 cm; ring size UK: M (approximate); weight: 14.5 g

PROVENANCE

Mr. A.T. Collection, Europe, acquired in the 1980s With Antiquarium Ltd, New York, acquired in 1994



### HELLENISTIC LUXURY TABLE WARE

With regard to wine we ought to talk as does Euripides with regard to Love

PLUTARCH: MORALIA 19

In the Hellenistic world, drinking and feasting were central to one of the pillars of aristocratic life: the symposium. Featuring debate, music, and most importantly, banqueting, the symposium provided an opportunity for the powerful and influential in Hellenistic society to engage with their peers in a microcosm of the wider political landscape. Thus, drinking vessels, were important instruments in the arenas of entertainment, philosophy, and politics.

The production of expensive metal vessels reached a high level of artistry in the Hellenistic period. Elaborate gold, silver, and bronze vessels were commissioned by wealthy patrons to adorn their tables. Black-glazed pottery with a lustrous high shine surface was also used to imitate the gold and silver vessels, to create a class of objects at the upper end of affordable luxuries. Such vessels exemplify conspicuous consumption, and its importance within Hellenistic society.



# 26 | A GREEK PARCEL-GILT SILVER BOWL

EASTERN HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 2<sup>ND</sup>-1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Diameter: 20.9 cm; height: 4.2 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Private collection, France, acquired in the 1980s Pierre Bergé, Paris, 16 May 2018, lot 214



# 27 | A SET OF GREEK BLACK-GLAZED BOWLS

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC

Diameter: 17.4 cm; 18.2 cm Height: 7.8 cm; 12.5 cm

PROVENANCE

Family collection, New York, USA, acquired in Switzerland in the late 1990s



# 28 | A HELLENISTIC BLACK-GLAZED WEST SLOPE POTTERY SKYPHOS

PERGAMON, EARLY 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 7.9 cm

PROVENANCE
European private collection, 1990s
Christie's, New York, 5 December 2001, lot 501

# SENSUOUS GODDESSES

Under the sloping waist, aslant, her zone
Clings as it slips in tender disarray;
One knee, out-thrust a little, keeps it so
Lingering ere it fall; her lovely face
Gazes as o'er her own Eternity!
ALFRED NOYES, THE VENUS OF MILO

Hellenistic art is richly diverse in subject matter and in stylistic development. During this period representations of Greek gods and goddesses took on new forms, challenging the Classical ideals of perfection. A new sensual style of portraying goddesses developed with more dynamic movement and fluid drapery. New poses were created, such as the depiction of Aphrodite loosening her sandal, which helped capture the unique expressions and characteristics of individual goddesses.

Inspired by these changing representations, art collectors commissioned original works of art, as well as copies that reflected the tastes, styles, and artistic conventions of the period. This continued into the Roman period with wealthy Roman patrons commissioning replicas of famous Greek sculptures to decorate their private homes and gardens.







### 29 | A GREEK BRONZE STATUE OF ATHENA

#### HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 25 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Private collection, Geneva, Switzerland, acquired before 1956 Private collection, Paris, France, acquired before 1987 Private collection, F.G., Belgium Christie's, London, 8 December 2021, lot 79

#### PUBLISHEI

Arachne Database no: 1140696 (object); 91220 (1956 photo). The bronze was photographed by *Boissonnas* with the image reproduced by Eva-Maria Czakó for the DAI (German Archaeological Institute Athens) in 1956 (Genf Nr. 55. 193).

# 30 | A GREEK MARBLE FEMALE HEAD

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 4<sup>TH</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 12 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Private collection, Europe, probably acquired in the 19th century (based on the old base and the collection stamp, dated to 1887)
Private collection, New York, USA, acquired in the 1980s



### 31 | A LARGE GREEK TERRACOTTA Figure of Aphrodite

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup>-1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 31 cm

#### PROVENANCE

With Spink and Son, London, 31 July 1957 Private collection, London. acquired from the above Sotheby's London, 8 December 1994, lot 204



# 32 | A ROMAN BRONZE FIGURE OF APHRODITE

CIRCA 1ST CENTURY AD

Height: 13.9 cm (without base)

PROVENANCE

With Herbert Cahn, Basel, 1998
Private collection, Zurich, Switzerland, 1998 –2010
Cahn, Basel, Auction 5, September 2010, lot 342
Private collection, Switzerland, acquired from the above





### 33 | A ROMAN BRONZE FIGURE OF APHRODITE

CIRCA 1<sup>ST</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY AD Height: 11.5 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Aimé Charles Horace His de La Salle (1795 - 1878) Collection

Sotheby's, London, 22-25 November 1880, lot 330

H. Hoffman Collection, before 1889

Louis de Clercq (1882–1901) Collection, Oignies, France, acquired from the above in 1889, thence by descent to his grand-nephew Comte Henri de Boisgelin (1901 - 1967), rue de Mazarine, Paris

#### PUBLISHED

A. de Ridder, Collection De Clercq. Catalogue, vol. 3: Les Bronzes, Paris, 1905, pl. 14, no. 88



# 34 | A GREEK TERRACOTTA HEAD OF APHRODITE

#### HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 10.4 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Eugen Peterson (1836 - 1919) Collection, a German classical archaeologist and philologist, and the first director of the DAI Rome between 1887–1905; gifted to his niece in 1903 With Cahn AG, Basel, 2015

Private collection, London, UK, acquired in 2015



### HELLENISTIC WOMEN AND THEIR WORLD

The ancient sources and visual arts demonstrate that during the Hellenistic era, the life of women was vastly different from what it had been in the preceding periods. It was a period of remarkable mobility, for men and women alike.

The contrast between the position of women in Hellenistic societies and Classical societies is especially evident in relation to royal women in the Hellenistic period who were highly politically active, competing in a traditionally male arena to gain power and influence. But this was not limited to royalty and generally the legal and economic position of women increased substantially. This appears to be partly due to an expansion of maritime communications and trade, and the resulting contact with Dorian cities, in which the status of women was different.

The epigraphic evidence shows that Hellenistic women were allowed to own property and wealth, with women receiving honours for their services, especially in religious spheres; they could even hold office. Female education also increased, as we see several female philosophers, poets, and writers emerge.

Works of art shed light on these changes and the increase in depictions of women in sculpture, a distinctly public form of art, illustrates a marked change in the general mind set towards the female body. In particular, the coroplastic workshops, with creations that represent ordinary females, their fashions, accomplishments, education, activities, offer particularly illuminating images of Hellenistic women. These figurines, with their clothing and coiffures, represent ordinary women participating in festivals or funerary rites. Greater freedom is seen in their dress, hairstyles, and movement, as well as in the objects that they hold, such as fans, musical instruments, mirrors, and vessels.

# 35 | A GREEK TERRACOTTA DRAPED FEMALE FIGURE

CIRCA 4<sup>TH</sup>–3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Height: 27.7 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Dr Marcel Lanselle Collection, France, acquired circa 1930 With David Ghezelbash, Paris Private collection, London, UK, acquired from the above in 2011 Private collection, London, UK, acquired





# 36 | A GREEK TERRACOTTA DRAPED FEMALE FIGURE

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC

Length: 17.5 cm

#### PROVENANCE

Dr. Hans Stenzl (1880 Munich, Germany - 1980 Riehen, Switzerland), acquired in 1959 Private collection, London, UK, acquired in 1980 from the above



# 37 | AN ETRUSCAN BRONZE MIRROR

CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC Length: 27 cm

#### PROVENANCE

With Elie Borowski, Basel, 1952 Fridolin (1903–1969) and Halina (1907–1989) Schwitter-Lagutt Collection, Basel, Switzerland, acquired from the above, thence by descent Christie's, London, 5 July 2017, lot 171 Private collection, Germany



# 38 | A GREEK TERRACOTTA SEATED FEMALE FIGURE

HELLENISTIC, CIRCA 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC

Height: 16.6 cm

PROVENANCE

Dr. Hans Stenzl (1880 Munich, Germany–1980 Riehen, Switzerland), acquired in 1959 Private collection, London, UK, acquired in 1980 from the above





# 39 | A HELLENISTIC POTTERY FOOTED PYXIS

SICILY, CENTURIPE, CIRCA  $3^{\text{RD}}-2^{\text{ND}}$  CENTURY BC Height: 77.5 cm

#### PROVENANCE

With Galerie du Sycomore, Paris Private collection, Europe, acquired from the above in 1985

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