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Egyptian Alabaster Kohl Vessel

An ancient Egyptian alabaster vessel used to contain the cosmetic eye liner, kohl.

New Kingdom.
Ca. 1550 - 1070 BC.
Height: 1 3/8 in. (3.6 cm).

Black galena (lead sulfide) based kohl (Egyptian: mesmedet) was not only used for beauty but also for religious, symbolic, and practical reasons as it worked as a natural disinfectant and protected the eyes from the bright sunlight.

Formerly in a Canadian private collection.

inventory number: 6435

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