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Integritas ~ Aestimatio ~ Peritia

Egyptian Breccia Vessel

An ancient Egyptian breccia cosmetic vessel of tapering ovoid form with raised rim and flattened bottom.

Middle Kingdom.
Ca. 2040 - 1782 BC.
Height: 4 1/8 in. (10.1 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 the Monnier collection, Paris, 1960s; Tajan auction, Paris, 1996; subsequently in the Jerome Eisenberg collection, New York.

inventory number: 9528

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