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Egyptian Hyksos Terracotta Head



An ancient Egyptian terracotta 'Hyksos' concubine head, the broad face modeled with incised linear eyes and a ridged nose, her coiffure pierced with three holes with remaining strands of hair sewn in made of fine twisted fiber.

2nd Intermediate Period, 17th Dynasty,
Ca. 1630 - 1539 BC.
Height: 1 1/2 in. (3.75 cm).

The precise function of such figurines is uncertain, though they appear to have played a role in household ritual, serving as votive objects associated with childbirth, family well-being, and fertility. At Edfu, two principal types were recovered: tall figurines with flattened heads and small rectangular plaques bearing highly schematic decoration.

cf.: Brooklyn Museum, New York, inv. no. 77.49.

Formerly in a New York private collection; acquired at Christie's, New York, December 7, 2000, lot 314.

inventory number: 9630

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