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Egyptian Hyksos Terracotta Head



An ancient Egyptian terracotta 'Hyksos' concubine figure. The nude figure, standing with her shoulders in resting position before break, wearing an applied triple strand collar framing her breasts, the broad face modelled with incised linear eyes and a ridged nose, with pierced disc earrings, her coiffure pierced with three holes.

2nd Intermediate Period, 17th Dynasty,
Ca. 1630 - 1539 BC.
Height: 2 in. (4.5 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. R.A. Fazzini et. al., Ancient Egyptian Art in the Brooklyn Museum, New York, 1989, no. 30.

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

inventory number: 9627

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