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Etruscan Bronze Herakles

An ancient Etruscan bronze statuette of Herakles, nude with incised hair, standing holding weapons in both hands, with the skin of the Nemean Lion draped over his left arm.

Etruria.
Ca. 6th - 5th century BC.
6 1/4 in. (16 cm).

The Greek hero Herakles (Etruscan: Hercle) was a popular subject in Etruscan art and religion. He was worshipped in numerous Etruscan sanctuaries, and often functioned as an oracular and healing god.

cf.: Archaeological Museum of Bologna, inv. no. IT 1092.

Formerly in the collection of Dr. Isidor Silbermann, acquired at Parke-Bernet auction, New York, April 24, 1970, lot 162.

inventory number: 7183

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