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Roman Glass Intaglio: Maenad



An ancient Roman glass intaglio gem, banded blue and green, carved with a gilded figure of a maenad carrying the thyrsos.

Ca. 2nd - 3rd century AD.
Length: 19 mm.

Maenads (also Bacchantes) were the frenzied female members of the retinue of Dionysos, the Greek god of wine and revelry (Roman: Bacchus). Maenads, literally "the raving ones," were often depicted in Greek art as wild and ecstatic women who indulged in sex, violence, and intoxication.

Formerly in a New Jersey private collection.

inventory number: 9134

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