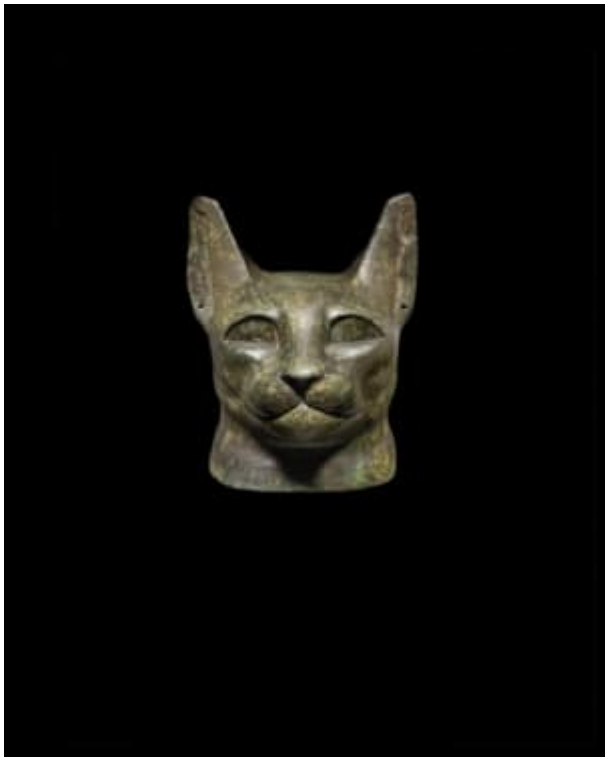

Cat Head Of The Goddess Bastet

Egypt

Late Period 664 - 332 B.C.

Bronze

H: 8.3 cm x W: 6.8 cm

Exquisite bronze head of the goddess Bastet. The details are meticulously incised and delicate, the forms supple, and the surface smooth. The cat's ears are pierced although the original gold earrings have been lost. The cult of Bastet, protective goddess of the home associated with prosperity and fertility, developed beginning in the tenth century BC, simultaneously with the establishment of the primary residence of the kings of the 22nd Dynasty in Bubastis (the home of Bastet). Small statuettes of this sort served as offerings or were placed alongside mummies and sarcophagi of cats, which were considered at the time to be sacred animals.

Literature:

'Die Sammlung Dr. Hans Wendland', Lugano, Hermann Ball and Paul Graupe, Berlin, 1931, Lot 254.

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