

DAVID AARON



Male Shaman Figure

C. 12 - 8th Century B.C., Caucasus

Bronze

H: 7.6cm

Standing bronze male figure, one hand held to his chest, the other extended in front. The extended arm ending in an over-sized hand, which would have held a spear or possibly a thunderbolt. With stylised facial features, the mouth open in an 'O', the ears ringed, possibly to hold earrings, and a tall crown.

This dynamic idol appears captured in the midst of a gesture, the extended hand accompanying a shout shown by the open mouth. This, the strong wide stance and emphatic genitalia give the figure a ferocious, war-like appearance and speak to a possibly apotropaic function.

This figure was catalogued when in the collection of Jay Leff in the 60s as hailing from the Caucasus, a large and complex region which is centred around the Caucasian mountain range, bounded by the Black and Caspian seas and bordered by the Kuban and Terek rivers in the north and the Kura and Araxes rivers in the south, which produced complex bronze-work.

Exhibitions

'Near Eastern and Far Eastern Art from the Collection of Jay C. Leff', The American Federation of Art, New York, 5th August – 29th September, 1965.

Literature:

J. Haskin, Near Eastern and Far Eastern Art from the Collection of Jay C. Leff (Exhibition Catalogue),
New York, 1965, no. 39.

David Aaron Ltd, 2023, No. 24.