

DAVID AARON



Sardinian Warrior

Sardinia

7th to 6th Century B.C

Bronze

H:16 cm

An exceptionally rare and important Sardinian bronze figure of a warrior. The highly stylized figure is depicted standing, holding a club resting on his shoulder in the right hand and a round shield with central boss in the left. The warrior wears leggings under a short kilt, a cuirass, ringed neck-guard, and crested helmet with fragmentary horns. The statue was produced in the Nuragic (from 'nuraghe', the type of ancient Bronze Age building found across the island), or Geometric, period of Sardinian art. This is one of very few of its type outside Sardinia.

Different types of Nuragic statuettes depicting human figures have been identified: the 'tribal leaders', the shepherds, the warriors, the archers, the worshipper(s), groups (mother and child, wrestlers, etc.). These are recognised as representing the higher classes of a hierarchical social structure – those with religious, political or militaristic responsibilities. This figure is of the warrior type. The statuette likely had a votive function; many similar figures have been discovered in the famous Nuragic sacred wells of the island.

Accompanied by a detailed condition report, inventory notes from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, and a chemical analysis report carried out by Arthur Beale in 1975 when he was Acting Chief Conservator of

the Fogg Art Museum, in preparation for the inclusion of the bronze in a publication by Dr. Miriam S. Balmuth ('Sardinian Bronzetti in American Museums', Studi Sardi (1975-1977), Vol. 24).

Exhibitions

Contemporary Art: Acquisitions 1962-1965, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, 30th September – 30th October 1966.

¿Kid Stuff?, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, 25th July – 6th September 1971.

Kunst und Kultur Sardiniens: vom Neolithikum bis zum Ende d. Nuraghenzeit, Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe, 18th April -13th July 1980, then Museum für Vor- u. Frühgeschichte d. Staatlichen Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz Berlin in Berlin-Charlottenburg, 31st July – 14th September 1980

Literature:

Christian Zervos, La Civilisation de la Sardaigne: Du Debut de L'Eneolithique a la Fin de la Periode Nuragique; Ile Millenaire - Ve Siecle Avant Notre Ere, Editions Cahiers d'Art, 1954, p. 148

Art Quarterly, vol. 39. no. 1, 1966, p. 71

Stephen A. Nash, with Katy Kline, Charlotta Kotik, and Emese Wood, Painting and Sculpture from Antiquity to 1942, Albright-Knox Gallery, New York, 1969, p.73, illus.

Charlotte B. Johnson, Color and Shape, A-KAG, 1971, illus., pp. 11-12.

Kunst und Kultur Sardiniens: vom Neolithikum bis zum Ende d. Nuraghenzeit, Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe im Karlsruher Schloss vom 18. Apr.-13. Juli 1980, Museum für Vor- u. Frühgeschichte d. Staatlichen Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz Berlin in Berlin-Charlottenburg vom 31. Juli-14. Sept. 1980

Miriam S. Balmuth, "Sardinian Bronzetti in American Museums", Studi Sardi (1975-1977), Vol. 24, 145-52, passim, figs. 1 and 2.