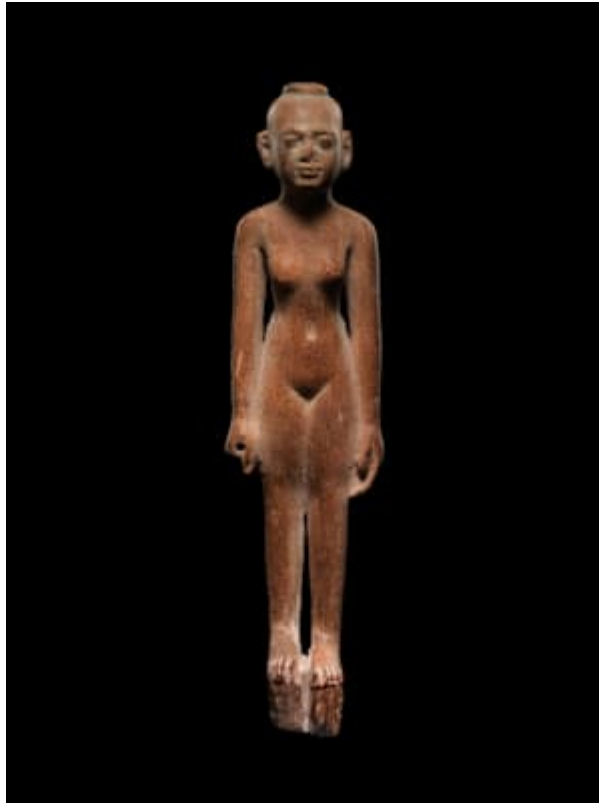


DAVID AARON



Wooden Nubian Woman

18th Dynasty, New Kingdom, Egypt

Wood

H: 19 cm, W: 4.5 cm

A hand-carved wooden female figure in striding pose, with her true left leg extended ahead. She is depicted in the nude, and delicately modelled, with a slender waist and small breasts. Her head is clean shaven, except for a circular tuft of hair on her crown – a hairstyle associated with Nubians, but also popular among young Egyptian women in the 18th Dynasty.¹ Her arms hang by her sides, with one hand in a fist, pierced horizontally, suggesting it may originally have held an object. As there are no other attachments for other parts, it suggests that this was originally a free-standing sculpture, rather than incorporated into a cosmetic item, as was popular for figures of female youths at the time. It is unusual for a wooden figure of this time to have been carved out of one block of wood, as is the case for this example – this demonstrates a high level of skill from the craftsman who made it.

This type of small wooden statuette was common in the second part of the 18th Dynasty, particularly during the reign of Amenhotep III. The image of a nude, adolescent girl is imbued with notions of sexuality, fertility, birth, and rebirth into the next world. This figure may well have served a similar purpose to the tomb statuette of Amenemheb now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (26.7.1413a, b).² This nude figure of a young boy holds a lotus in his fist, and was found in his mother's coffin, dedicated by his father alongside a figure of his brother, Huwebenef, who is depicted in the same striding pose as the female figure, with a pierced hand for an attachment.

Exhibitions

The Collector's Eye: Masterpieces of Egyptian Art from the Thalassic Collection, Ltd., Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, US, 11 April 2001 – 6 January 2002, no. 50.

Literature:

Dr. Ludwig Pollak, Joseph v. Kopf als Sammler (Rome, 1905), no. 266, pl. XI.

Jacques Chamay, Jiří Frel, Jean-Louis Maier, Le Mondes de Césars (Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève, 1982), end page.

Peter Lacovara, Betsy Teasley Trope, Sue H. D'Auria (eds.), The Collector's Eye: Masterpieces of Egyptian Art from the Thalassic Collection, Ltd., exhibition catalogue, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, 2001, no. 50, p. 91.