

SA1203973

Bronze of Mars or the
"Executioner," after
Massimiliano Soldani Benzi
(1656-1740).

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1203973****Date of manufacture: 1900**

Dimensions

Height = 40 cm (15.7")

Width = 13 cm (5.1")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

Fine patinated bronze of Mars or the "Executioner," after Massimiliano Soldani Benzi (1656-1740). The sculpture depicts a striding muscular figure – nude and heroic, holding a severed head. The head is often identified to be that of John the Baptist. It has been suggested that Giambologna's Mars originally held a severed head, which is has been lost from most surviving examples – and that the Soldani-Benzi cast is a close representation of the lost original. In "Giambologna: The Complete Sculpture" the Scholar, Charles Avery discusses such a claim (1987). The contrary view is that Soldani's version draws from Giambologna's (1529-1608) "Mars", with the addition of the Baptist's severed head, heightening all things baroque. This example is a late 18th or early 19th-century copy. Dark patination. This sculpture views well in the round and is certainly not to be overlooked.

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