

SA1211218

Antique Italian Folk Art Wooden Statue of Saint Anthony of Padua

Price

GBP 1,500

| USD \$2,031 | EUR 1,755

Item Reference: SA1211218

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 70 cm (27.6")

Width = 21 cm (8.3")

Depth = 22 cm (8.7")

Description

A rare example of genuine ecclesiastical Italian folk art. This is an early 19th-century sculpture of Saint Anthony of Padua (70 cm tall), hand carved from solid wood, likely lime wood. The Saint is depicted in the traditional brown Franciscan tunic with a rope belt and rosary beads. He holds a closed sacred book in his right hand, a traditional symbol of his profound theological knowledge. The face of this statue is its most compelling folk-art element because it abandons the idealized "official" beauty for something deeply human. Its large, earnest eyes and regional character make the saint feel like a neighbour or a village elder, which was essential for local devotion. Furthermore, the face is where the highest level of detail is concentrated, including the tonsure (shaved scalp), which is finished with fine details. This "hierarchy of focus" is typical in folk art, where the most spiritually significant part of the figure—the head—receives the most personal attention. Ecclesiastical folk art carries a unique, soulful weight precisely because of its inherent fragility. Its value lies in its sincerity; the artist wasn't concerned with a legacy or "art history," but w...

Seller Details

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