

17TH CENTURY POLYCHROME CARVED WOOD SCULPTURE OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

$11,000

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Categories: Religious Accents, Statues, Busts & Figurines

This expressive antique polychrome carved wood sculpture depicts Saint Thomas the Apostle, identifiable by the carpenter's square held in his hand, his traditional attribute, and the book symbolizing Scripture and faith. Executed in the Baroque style, the figure displays an intense, contemplative expression, deeply carved beard, and animated drapery characteristic of late 17th-century devotional sculpture. Carved from solid wood and retaining its original polychrome decoration, the figure is painted in rich yet time-softened tones of green, ochre, red, and cream, with traces of gilding throughout. The surface shows extensive wear, losses, and a deeply developed patina consistent with centuries of devotional use. The hollowed-back construction is characteristic of 17th-century ecclesiastical sculpture, intended to reduce weight and accommodate movement in the wood. Stylistically, the sculpture aligns with French provincial Baroque religious carving, circa 1680, and was likely created for a chapel niche, altar, or private oratory. The quality of the carving, particularly in the hands, facial features, and expressive folds of the drapery, suggests an accomplished workshop rather than a later decorative or revival piece. A true period French devotional sculpture, this work offers exceptional age, character, and presence, making it a powerful focal point for a collection of religious art or a refined traditional interior. Dimensions: 18"W x 8"D x 21.5"H

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