



**19TH CENTURY FRENCH CARVED
PAINTED POLYCHROME CRUCIFIX
SIGNED CHARLES FORNI 1881**

\$7,900

SKU: 132-271

Stock: N/A

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Make a dramatic spiritual statement with this monumental life-size French crucifix. Found in a private chapel in the Rhone Valley in Lyon, France, and measuring an impressive 89 inches tall, the relic depicts a hand-carved polychromed and painted figure of Christ, mounted on a robust, dark-stained wood cross. The sculpted Christ, signed Charles Forni and dated 1881, exhibits a poignant expression of suffering and serenity, rendered with remarkable anatomical precision and softened naturalism. The body, nailed on the cross, is clothed in a detailed, draped perizonium and adorned with realistic wounds at the hands, feet, and side. Above the figure, the traditional INRI inscription is displayed on a painted plaque, symbolizing the Latin phrase "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum" (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). John 19:20 states that this was written in three languages, Hebrew, Latin, and Greek during the crucifixion of Jesus. The title "King of the Jews" is only used in the New Testament by gentiles, namely by the Magi, Pontius Pilate, and the Roman soldiers. In contrast, the Jewish leaders use the designation "King of Israel". Although the phrase "King of the Jews" is used in most English translations, it has also been translated "King of the Judeans". In excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with minor wear to the paint that adds to its authenticity and devotional character, this large devotional artwork offers not only spiritual significance but also historical presence. Whether used in a private chapel, sanctuary, or as a statement piece in a grand interior, this rare 19th-century crucifix is a moving and powerful representation of Christian artistry. Weight 56 pounds. Measures: 47" W x 89" H.