



LATE 18TH CENTURY ITALIAN POLYCHROMED AND PAINTED PAPIER-MÂCHÉ FIGURE OF CHRIST

\$1,900

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Decorate a shelf, console, or religious collection with this expressive antique devotional sculpture of Our Savior. Crafted in Italy circa 1780, the figure depicts Christ as the Eccentric Homo (Behold the Man) or Man of Sorrows; Jesus is represented half-length with bowed head and crossed arms in a contemplative pose. Hand formed in papier-mâché and finished with polychrome and gesso decoration, the bust retains its beautifully aged surface with rich patina acquired over centuries of age and use.

The serene facial expression, flowing shoulder-length hair, and emotive modeling reflect the enduring influence of Italian Baroque religious art. The figure is mounted on its original integral base and displays remnants of its original painted decoration throughout, including traces of gilt, warm earth tones, and darker pigments accentuating the hair. The antique sculpture exhibits expected wear, scattered losses, age cracks, and surface imperfections commensurate with its age, all of which contribute to its authentic character and visual appeal.

Likely created for private devotion, a chapel, or a religious display, this rare Italian figure possesses a strong sculptural presence and remarkable folk-art quality. Rich in history and spiritual expression, the religious bust would make a distinctive addition to any collection of antique religious art or European decorative objects.

Very good antique condition commensurate with age and use. Surface wear, age cracks, paint losses, and minor losses throughout as shown. Retains a rich patinated finish and original character.

Dimensions: 11.75"W x 10"D x 21.5"H