HOWGEGO
HISTORIC + MODERN

Sculpture Mother & Children Pottery Brown Glaze

£1,800

Howgego Historic & Modern
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REF: 11777

Height: 12.5 cm (4.9")

Width: 15 cm (5.9")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A small 12.5cm., 5" high biomorphic pottery sculpture of a mother in a reclining pose holding two children. brown glaze. The bottom stamped 'art pottery' with indecipherable name below. Mid-20th century. Artist unknown. Private Collection. Measures: Length 15cm., 6" depth 10cm., 4" height 12.5cm. 5"

This sculpture reflects the universal theme of the cycle of life and the evolution of humanity, while expressing the tenderness and care felt by one human being for another. The distinctive pared down, soft form of the mother holding her children creates a rhythmic fluidity in the composition and represents the different cycles of life.

The body of the mother is physically fused with the children in a womb-like pose and their intimate bond is illustrated by the way the children are held by the mother as their loving and nurturing gaze is directed at each other. The artist balances the composition with the egg or womb-like form. The artist has reduced the figures to their essential form, removing all features and paring down the form creating a feeling of eternity which is also reinforced by using stone which comes from the earth. The simplicity alludes to divine maternity, although the mother and child are accessible and human, in monumental broad and simple form.

Mother & Child The mother and child is a 'subject so consecrated by its antiquity, so hallowed by its profound significance, so endeared by its associations with the softest and deepest of our human sympathies, that our mind has never wearied of its repetition, nor the eye become saturated with its beauty'. (The Legends of the Madonna Anna Jameson)

The image of a mother and child summons feelings of warmth, love and protection and is used as a powerful symbolic motif of fecundity, maternity and creativity throughout the history of art. From the fertility goddess figures of the Paleolithic period to the twentieth century, the mother and child theme has recurringly emerged as an empowering, symbolic theme in art used to define a subject's inner reality while presenting it in a new form that illuminates new meanings (Susanne Langer).

Changes in beliefs and society are reflected through different portrayal of the mother and child image over time. From the fertility goddess of ancient culture to the symbol of Christianity as the Madonna and Child and, as religious influence on society, declined becoming a secular conception. In the 19th century Mary Cassatt's paintings reflected these changes as the mother and child became a symbol of importance and influence in society and Kathe Kollwitz explored the horrors of human existence through the voice of motherhood. In the 20th century Henry Moore sees the mother and child as the epitome of creativity and allied himself with the mother as a creative force in bringing about form.

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