

Sculpture Sandstone Carved Figurative The Thinker

£5,400



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REF: 11703

Height: 50 cm (19.7")

Width: 33 cm (13")

Depth: 22 cm (8.7")

## Description

The Thinker Mid-Century Modern, sandstone sculpture depicting a seated man, artist unknown

This Mid-Century Modern interpretation of The Thinker interprets the pain, release and liberation associated with free-thinking. The man conveys vulnerability, tenderness and acceptance, his body yielding into the support of the chair creating a sense of rest and peace.

Provenance: Private Collection acquired from The Hidden Gallery, Scotland

Measures: Height 50cm., 20" Length 33cm., 15" Depth 22cm., 8 1/2"

The Thinker - Auguste Rodin (1840 -1917). Cast made by Fonderie Alexis Rudier in 1904. Transferred to the musée Rodin in 1922. When conceived in 1880 in its original size (approx. 70 cm) as the crowning element of The Gates of Hell, seated on the tympanum, The Thinker was entitled The Poet. He represented Dante, author of the Divine Comedy which had inspired The Gates, leaning forward to observe the circles of Hell, while meditating on his work. The Thinker was therefore initially both a being with a tortured body, almost a damned soul, and a free-thinking man, determined to transcend his suffering through poetry. The pose of this figure owes much to Carpeaux's Ugolino (1861) and to the seated portrait of Lorenzo de' Medici carved by Michelangelo (1526-31). While remaining in place on the monumental Gates of Hell, The Thinker was exhibited individually in 1888 and thus became an independent work. Enlarged in 1904, its colossal version proved even more popular: this image of a man lost in thought, but whose powerful body suggests a great capacity for action, has become one of the most celebrated sculptures ever known. Numerous casts exist worldwide, including the one now in the gardens of the Musée Rodin, a gift to the City of Paris installed outside the Panthéon in 1906, and another in the gardens of Rodin's house in Meudon, on the tomb of the sculptor and his wife.