

Mid-century artist's lay figure

Sold



REF: 7507

Height: 50 cm (19.7")

Width: 12 cm (4.7")

Depth: 7 cm (2.8")

Description

A medium size artist's articulated lay figure dating to the first half of the 20th century.

Artist's lay figures are articulated mannequins in various sizes used by painters and sculptors to study pose, proportion, and drapery. They appeared in Europe during the Renaissance, when artists sought more accurate representations of the human body without requiring live models for every composition.

Often made from wood, wax, or ivory, lay figures featured movable joints that allowed artists to experiment with dramatic gestures and lighting. By the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, they became common studio tools among professional artists and academies.

Though largely replaced by photography and live reference methods, antique lay figures remain valued today for their craftsmanship, historical significance, and connection to traditional artistic practice.