Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

18th-Century Flemish Polychrome Statue of Saint Mary Magdalene

£695

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 6613

Height: 65 cm (25.6")

Width: 32 cm (12.6")

Depth: 20 cm (7.9")

Description

An 18th-century Flemish carved and polychrome-painted wooden statue of Saint Mary Magdalene, depicted with a quiet grace and devotional intensity. Beautifully carved in the round, the figure is distinguished by flowing drapery, expressive modelling, and the softly aged surface of its original painted decoration.

Saint Mary Magdalene was among the most venerated female saints in Catholic Europe, revered as a witness to the Resurrection and a powerful emblem of penitence, contemplation, and redemption. Flemish religious sculpture of this period was made to inspire prayer as well as admiration, and this figure carries that purpose with great presence. Her composed expression and carefully arranged robes convey both dignity and human warmth.

The remaining polychrome decoration gives the carving considerable depth and character. Subtle variations of colour, areas of wear, and the natural patina of age enhance the sculpture's devotional atmosphere, while the rich folds of the drapery create a particularly pleasing interplay of light and shadow. Whether originally made for a church, chapel, private oratory, or domestic devotional setting, it has retained the visual power of an object created for faith and contemplation.

Now highly decorative as well as spiritually evocative, this impressive figure would make a compelling focal point in an interior, collection of religious art, or period decorative scheme. A sensitive and characterful example of 18th-century Flemish ecclesiastical carving, combining strong sculptural presence with the enduring romance of timeworn polychrome.

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