

# HEAD OF ISIS

Artist: Unknown  
 Date: Age of Hadrian (117-138 AD)  
 Dimensions: 156 cm  
 Material: Marble  
 Inventory Number: 22804

Total Cost € 5.470,00

## STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The condition of this statue is generally good. Its surface is covered with a layer of dust and debris along with light varnish which was spread over the body in order to soften the visual difference between the various marbles used in previous restorations. Cleaning this piece will better preserve it for the future and enhance public viewing. Studies and investigations will allow a better understanding of the piece. A large part of the conservation process will focus on the scientific analysis of the statue's surface and base using a high resolution tri-dimensional survey.

## RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Documentation with 3D laser scanner
- Analytic and stratigraphic analysis
- Cleaning and consolidation of the surface
- Diagnosis of state and condition of the statue
- Recreation of a chromatic balance across the surface
- Study of the base of the statue
- Photographic documentation



This bust depicts a female deity, draped in a delicate veil covering her head and shoulders. Scholars agree this is a depiction of the goddess Isis. The Greek often compared Isis to their goddess Demeter who is also generally represented with a veil.

Due to many common features shared by the two goddesses as well as a strong trading relationship between the Greek and Egyptian cultures, some religious confusion related to the goddesses developed. Both Isis and Demeter supervised and protected the fertility of the land and the harvest. Most importantly, the goddesses controlled the Nile floods, the phenomenon which guaranteed life itself to the Egyptian civilization.

The bust, formerly part of Collection d'Este, was found in the middle of the sixteenth century in Villa Adriana, the residence built by Emperor Hadrian in Tivoli.

This bust was found in the so-called "gymnasium," and was transported to Rome towards the end of the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XVI acquired it for the Gregorian Egyptian Museum in 1839, the year of its founding. Today it is placed in Room III of the Egyptian Museum among other major works from Villa Adriana, displayed in accordance to their original position there as documented by Egyptologist Jean-Claude Grenier.

