

# WOODEN USHABTI BOX

Artist: Unknown  
 Date: Third Intermediate Period (1070-712 BC)  
 Dimensions: 23.5 x 32 x 31 cm  
 Material: Wood  
 Inventory Number: 19153

Total Cost € 7.710,00

## STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The wood is damaged, particularly by an insect infestation which has resulted in holes, erosion of the wood and missing pieces of the wooden supports. There are cracks and fissures. The colors are missing in several areas. All of the surfaces are coated in debris and dirt.

## RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Anti-infestation measures
- Consolidation of the wooden supports
- Restabilization of layers of paint
- Cleaning of wooden supports and pictorial surfaces
- Reassembly
- Diagnostic imaging
- Chemical analysis

The box once consisted of five pieces of painted wood, joined together by wooden pins. The object now consists of five disassembled boards. The restoration will consist of reassembling the artifact which was originally used as a container for burial statuettes known as ushabti. These statuettes were believed to perform the agricultural labors required of the deceased in the afterlife. Literally, ushabti means "the one who answers" (i.e. to the call of the proprietor). This box is a clear example of reuse of funerary equipment. These pieces are from a decorated wooden "yellow coffin," reassembled as a rectangular box. This object dates to a very difficult period in the history of Egypt, the Third Intermediate Period (1070-712 BC), which was characterized by serious economic crisis resulting, among other things, in the reuse of burial locations and funerary equipment.

As a result of the object's history, the decoration of the box is not consistent. The cover shows the god Anubis, protector of the necropolis who accompanies the deceased to meet Osiris, the god of the dead and undergoes the proceedings before the court of the divine afterlife.

