

COLNAGHI



Byzantine
ca. 6th century A.D.

Amphora with Leopard Handles

Bronze

h. 38.1 cm
15 in.

Provenance

With Jean-Philippe Mariaud de Serres, Paris, 1988;
Acquired by the Cattai family, Switzerland, prior to 1993;
Christie's New York, *Antiquities*, 4 June 2015, lot no. 27;
Private Collection, United States, acquired from the above.

Publications

H. Smith MacIsaac, "Classical Profiles," in *House & Garden*, February 1988, p. 164.

The present amphora has a cylindrical body, hammered from a sheet of bronze, and sits on a convex base with sloping shoulders that descend in two distinct degrees. The inner step is decorated with an incised herringbone pattern. The neck is slightly waisted, opening into a flaring mouth with a vertical rim. Two separately cast handles are attached to the vessel, each formed in the shape of a leopard. The animals' fur is rendered through punched spots, and their mouths are depicted open and agape. Their forepaws connect to thick horizontal projections fastened to the rim, which terminate at their outer edges in stylized duck heads. The leopards' hind paws, meanwhile, join to ivy leaf-shaped handle-plates.

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