

COLNAGHI



A Roman Lower Torso of Venus

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Roman

Imperial Period, 1st-2nd century A.D.

Lower Torso of Venus

Marble

60 x 24 cm

23 3/5 x 9 1/2 in.

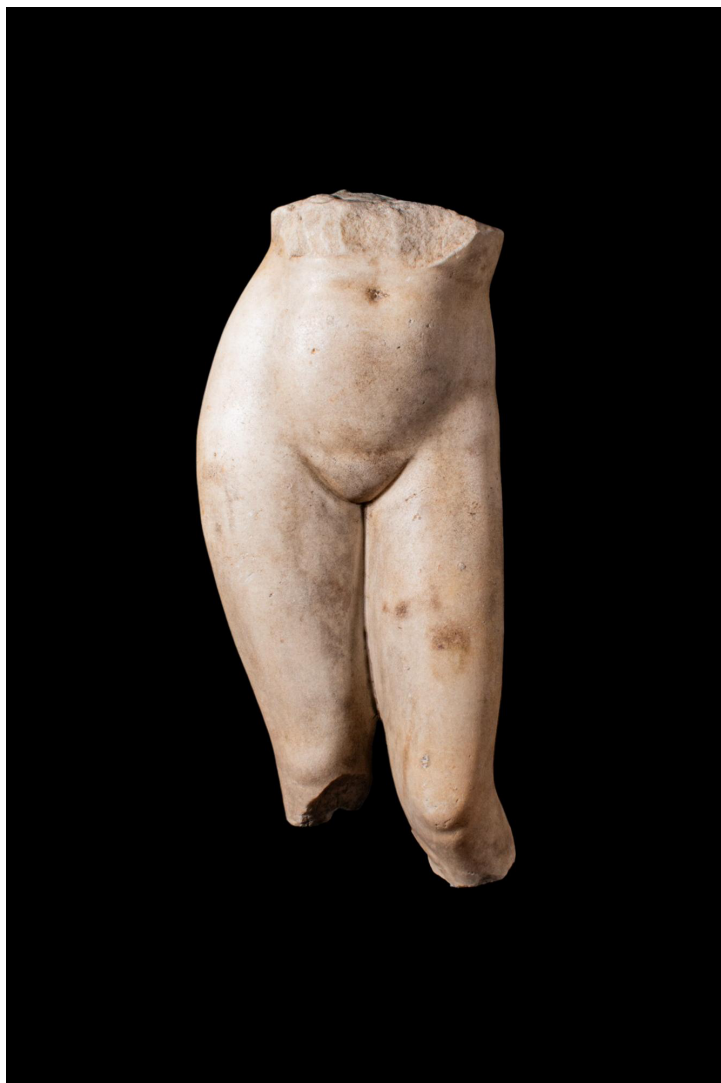
Provenance

Previously with Mathias Komor gallery, USA

Purchased by Joseph J. Klejman in 1969 and in his collection 1969-1990s;

Ex American and British collections, 1990s-2010s;

Private UK collection.



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The present lower torso represents Venus, well under life-size. The goddess stands nude with her left leg slightly extended forward and knee bent, and the right straight and bearing her weight. The left leg is broken below the knee, and the right slightly higher, with some of the knee missing. The torso is preserved up to just above the navel.

The pose of this sculpture, called the Aphrodite 'Anadyomene' (rising from the sea), also called the Cyrene type after a famous example unearthed in Cyrene in 1913 (pictured below), is a popular model across the Graeco-Roman world, derived from a Hellenistic type. In this graceful pose, Aphrodite was represented with both arms raised, wringing water from her hair, as though she were just emerging from the sea, where she was born. This innovative conceit with the arms raised up to the head allowed for a graceful display of the goddess' nude body. Sometimes thought to derive from a famous painting, statues with this graceful motif were found in temples and shrines across the Ancient Roman Empire, and were also popular for private devotion and decoration at all scales.

This Venus was sold by Mathias Komor, a reputable New York-based dealer of Antiquities, Old Master Prints, and non-Western historical art, active in the 1930s-70s. His photographic archive is now housed in the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. Komor sold the torso in 1969 to John J Klejman, a collector and dealer of African Art based in New York. In more recent years it has passed through collections based in the United Kingdom and the United States.



Venus of Cyrene Type, pictured in the Museo Delle Terme, returned to Libya in 2008, present location unknown.

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COLNAGHI *London*

26 BURY STREET, LONDON SW1Y 6AL
UNITED KINGDOM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
10AM-6PM

+44 (0)20 7491 7408

contact@colnaghi.com

COLNAGHI *Madrid*

CALLE GENERAL CASTAÑOS 9
PLANTA BAJA, DCHA.
28004 MADRID

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
BY APPOINTMENT

spain@colnaghi.com

COLNAGHI *New York*

23 EAST 67TH STREET, FOURTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10065
USA

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
10AM-6PM

+1 (917) 388-3825

newyork@colnaghi.com

COLNAGHI *Brussels*

RUE JACQUES JORDAENS 30
1000 BRUXELLES
BELGIUM

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

brussels@colnaghi.com