

COLNAGHI



*IFE ARTIST
Standing Figure*

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Nigeria, 12th-15th century

Standing Figure

Bronze

Provenance

Private Collection, Geneva, Switzerland;

Private collection, Belgium.

Ife bronze figures are masterworks of ancient African naturalism, skillfully crafted by the Yoruba people from the kingdom of Ife between the 12th and 15th centuries in southwestern Nigeria.

Cast using the lost wax technique, these figures portray kings, queens and Ife notables. These portraits feature vertical facial scarification, elaborate headdresses and opulent jewelry.

Naturalism, idealized proportions, serene facial features and realistic representation of the human body are unique to Ife artistic expression.

The kingdom of Ife is considered the spiritual and cultural cradle of Yoruba civilization, and these very rare bronzes are celebrated for their highly refined beauty.

COLNAGHI

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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