

COLNAGHI



*IFE ARTIST
Bronze Portrait Bust*

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IFE ARTIST

Nigeria, 12th-15th century

Portrait Bust

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.

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