Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Monumental 16th-Century Carved Marble Mortar

£1,200

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 6815

Height: 27 cm (10.6")

Width: 66 cm (26")

Depth: 51 cm (20.1")

Description

A monumental carved marble mortar dating from the 16th century, remarkable for its scale, sculptural presence, and beautifully weathered surface. Substantial and deeply hollowed through years of use, the piece has the quiet authority of an object made for practical purpose yet shaped by centuries into something powerfully decorative.

The hand-carved marble displays a richly softened patina, with tonal variation, wear, and irregularities that speak to its considerable age. Its broad, weighty form and generously proportioned bowl give it an architectural quality, while the worn rim and time-smoothed contours add depth and character. Carefully repaired at some point in its history, it retains the evidence of its long life rather than concealing it; the restoration forms part of its story and enhances its authenticity as an object of real use and survival.

Originally intended for grinding and preparing foodstuffs, pigments, herbs, or medicinal ingredients, the mortar is now equally compelling as a sculptural object. Its monumental scale allows it to command a kitchen, pantry, garden room, library, or entrance hall, while its timeless material and patinated surface sit naturally within both traditional and contemporary interiors.

A rare and atmospheric example of Renaissance-period domestic or apothecary stonework, offering exceptional texture, historic presence, and decorative impact.

Note that this item is very heavy and will required specialist shipping. Please enquire for a quotation.

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