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## Italian Terracotta Figure Of The Child Hercules, Rome, 18th Century, After Algardi



8 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Length : 25

Width : 25

Height : 44

### Description

After Alessandro Algardi (Bologna, 1585 - Roma, 1654)

YOUNG HERCULES, Italy, 18th Century  
terracotta

44 x 25 x 25 cm

17 1/4 x 9 3/4 x 9 3/4 in

This lovely sculpture represents the young Hercules, seated with his legs crossed, gently holding a bird with his right hand, raised in the air, while supporting his own weight with his left hand.

The artwork refers to the notorious Roman sculpture of the young Hercules killing the snakes sent by Hera, exhibited at the Capitoline Museums in Rome. Academics have identified the young emperor Caracalla or, more recently,

### Dealer

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Annio Vero, son of the emperor Marcus Aurelius,  
in the portrait of the sculpture.

During the 16th Century there has been an  
increasing interest of patrons towards the theme  
of mythology and several acclaimed Italian  
sculptors worked on the creation of sculptures  
and depictions of Roman Gods.

Among them, the distinguished baroque artist  
Alessandro Algardi worked on the restoration of  
several ancient sculptures, including the group of  
Hercules and Hydra at the Musei Capitolini.

Algardi is also the author of the seminal bronze  
sculpture of Infant Hercules with the snakes  
attributed to the artist by J. Montagu in her major  
publication from 1985.

While the present terracotta features several  
common elements with the Roman marble  
sculpture at the Capitoline museum, the depiction  
of the child is certainly in line with the style of  
Algardi and his closer followers, supporting the  
attribution to a 17th Century artist from the circle  
of the Roman master.