



'VERSATOIO CON VOLTO' (CERAMIC POURER WITH FACE) BY FEDERICO MELIS

BY COUP XX

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Created in 1957 by Sardinian artist Federico Melis, this anthropomorphic ceramic pourer reflects the modernist evolution of his work following his encounter with Pablo Picasso in Cannes in 1955. Hand-sculpted with expressive, Cubist-inspired features, the pitcher is finished in white slip with contrasting dark vertical stripes. Signed and dated. A rare and highly important 1957 ceramic work by Federico Melis, executed during the artist's mature period at the height of his modernist experimentation. This piece exemplifies Melis's decisive break from traditional ceramic conventions, embracing a bold synthesis of Mediterranean craft heritage and avant-garde European abstraction, with clear affinities to the sculptural language of Picasso's postwar anthropomorphic forms. Signed and dated, the work is powerfully modeled and unapologetically sculptural, prioritizing volume, gesture, and expressive distortion over function. The surface treatment and form reveal a confident, highly resolved artistic hand, placing the object firmly within the realm of collectible studio sculpture rather than decorative ceramics. Works of this caliber and period by Melis are scarce on the market and increasingly sought after for their significance within mid-century Italian ceramic production. Examples with this level of sculptural ambition and modernist clarity are particularly desirable, reflecting a pivotal moment in postwar European studio practice. A strong, museum-worthy example of Melis's late-career output, combining historical importance, rarity, and commanding visual presence. Suitable for advanced private collections and serious institutional or design-focused acquisitions.

ORIGIN

Italy

TIME

1957

DIMENSIONS

10 3/8" W x 7 3/4" D x 9 3/8" H

ITEM NUMBER

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