



MARC QUINN (b. 1964)

Archaeology of Desire

patina bronze

92 1/2 x 116 x 39 1/2 in.

3/3

2008

34041

PROVENANCE:

White Cube Gallery, London 2008

Private Collection, California

Contemporary artist Marc Quinn is associated with the Young British Artists movement, alongside Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin, Gary Hume, and Sarah Lucas. Quinn's early work dealt with decay and preservation, often incorporating degradable materials such as bread, flowers, or his own blood. The orchid is a recurring image in Quinn's work and features frequently in his sculptures. The 2008 sculpture "Archaeology of Desire" represents the period when Quinn began to use bronze – casting an image of his most notable floral theme. Here, Quinn captures a symbol of beauty, frailty, and impermanence, preserving it in bronze.

Marc Quinn, a conceptual and political artist, was a member of the Young British Artists movement of the 1980's and 1990's with Damien Hirst. Often considered the "brainy" YBA, Marc Quinn's artwork explores the relationship between life and death, art and science, the human body and the perception of beauty. Quinn uses a broad range of materials to express these relationships in sculpture, painting, and drawing.

Quinn is most well known for his sculpture "Self." As shocking as Hirst's "Shark in a Tank," "Self" is self portrait created from 8 pints of the artist's blood, removed from his body over time and then poured into a mold of his head. Kept in a temperature controlled environment, his frozen blood head references identity, sexuality, beauty and the fragility of existence.

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