

ENGRAVED RING

Greek, 5th - 4th century B.C.

Gold

D: 3.1 cm

Reference: 14174



The pointed oval bezel of this finger ring features an engraved representation of a bearded horseman riding to the left. He wears an impressive Corinthian helmet and a chlamys that is thrown over his shoulder, flying in the wind behind him. In his raised right hand, he holds a rhyton; with his left, the reins of a horse that stands quietly with one leg uplifted. The ring's shape suggests a date from the fifth to early fourth century B.C. While the engraving reveals the hand of a Greek artist, the subject refers to Thracian society and to the Danube cultures, in which depictions of horsemen were quite popular. The scene commemorates the moment following a king's investiture: the Great Mother Goddess has just given the hero a rhyton, the symbol of his kingship, which he proudly presents to the viewer. A similar subject is engraved into the bezel of a gold ring from Brezovo, Bulgaria, which depicts the goddess presenting a rhyton to a ruler; another example from Glozhene, in Bulgaria's Lovech district, shows a horseman triumphantly holding a rhyton.

CONDITION

Complete.

PROVENANCE

Ex – American private collection; acquired in 2001

EXHIBITED

GSTAAD, 2017

BIENALLE, Paris, 2008