



BARAKAT

Genuine archaeological artifacts of Egyptian, classical, and Biblical times. Ancient coins, jewelry, and art objects from all periods of history, all of which are of museum quality.

Full color catalog, \$30.00

BARAKAT GALLERY

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Fine art is generally classified as a luxury, but try to imagine a world without it. Since the dawn of time, man has enriched his existence with that which is rare, precious, unusual and beautiful. Great art is born from the union of passion and vision in the artist, and it embodies some of the highest ideals to which civilization aspires. Nor is that bond of human energy passed on only in finely wrought masterpieces; it exists with equal power in simpler, more everyday items that bear the imprint of the human hand, motivated by the human mind. When viewed and held by others, such objects satisfy a deep spiritual yearning, one which has been present throughout history.

When we think of the great civilizations of the past, it is often their artistic achievements which spring immediately to mind. What is Classical Greece ~~without the glories of the Parthenon?~~ The Renaissance without Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael? Who thinks today of the political agenda of the Pharaoh Cheops when the pyramid made for his royal tomb is so impressive? This is not to belittle in any way the role of politics, literature, science or philosophy (all of which contribute in one form or another to the creation of great art); it is simply that art is often the most tangible heritage which is passed from one generation to the next, as well as the most pleasurable. In the presence of a beautiful object—created, touched, admired, worshiped or desired, centuries ago—we are united with a vanished age and with the lives of the men and women who inhabited it and gave it meaning. If a painted vase pleases us as it did its original owner in the Hellenistic world, then a bond is formed. If a Pre-Columbian statue moves us with an expression of deeply-felt emotion, then we understand something important about the culture that created it. When we touch a coin minted by Alexander the Great, or one circulated in the Holy Land during the lifetime of Christ, who can say who might have held it then? Art excites the imagination, and without that stimulus, how could civilization survive and move forward? A luxury? Not at all! Art is right up there with food, clothing and shelter as one of life's necessities.

It is with this philosophy in mind that the Barakat Gallery takes great pleasure in presenting a collection of treasures from the past. These cover a broad range of history—Biblical, Egyptian, Classical, Pre-Columbian—and include artifacts from the pivotal cultures of both the Old World and the New. Some were created as the finest artistic outpourings of their age, while others—more modest in their origins—have gained beauty and stature with the passage of centuries. Simple or ornate, to both the novice and the connoisseur, the radiant energy of these objects speaks for itself. We hope you enjoy sharing that beauty with us.

FAYEZ BARAKAT