

Marble Head of a Woman Wearing Diadem and Veil

425-400 BC

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The Marble head of a woman wearing diadem and veil stands strong, beautiful, and broken. She has withstood the test of time but has not made it out perfectly. This marble sculpture from Ancient Greece has numerous parts, rather than just a face. She wears a diadem, holding her hair back, as well as a rather short veil that cuts off at her neck. She exudes power and complexity, as well as divine beauty.

Her face, while stunning, is not perfect. Specks of age are shown across her once flawless face, giving us the impression that even with her marks of imperfection, she still holds the angelic face she once had. Her eyes are blurry and unfocused, and her veil is now torn and dirty. The more you notice the imperfections of the woman, the imperfections become clearer and clearer. It feels like looking at a goddess who was once great, gone array.

The composition gives us the impression that the woman is moving, due to the curve of the neck. The veil drapes down over the head and to the neck, creating a downward flow to the piece. Her head is situated perfectly in the midst of the veil. There is a sort of sadness exuberating from the overall composition that gives this sculpture a nostalgic tone. It's as if she is known today by many. While this sculpture is small, only around seven inches tall, the woman contains mass amounts of energy, making the viewer feel like she is much larger. A sense of hope and peace washes over while observing this sculpture.