

RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



A Pair of Cheetahs

91 cm
2' 11⁷/₈"

19th Century
Terracotta

Architectural terracotta, rose.

Original, fine firing cracks visible.

Freely sculpted.

Female: H: 80 cm; W (max): 38 cm; Total height including wall remains: approx. 91 cm.

Male: H: 85 cm; W (max): 38 cm; Total height including wall remains: approx. 91 cm.

"Hunting leopards" were the trained cheetahs used for hunting in India. They wore leather collars with large ring loops through which a double leash was threaded. This was common from the Egyptian Empire to colonial India, including Persia. This was observed as late as 1941. Also notable are the tiny heads, long legs, and elongated bodies of the male and female cats.

Literature:

Catalog Rijksmuseum, Frans Post, Animals in Brazil, Alexander de Bruin, p. 43, fig. 44