

# DAVID AARON



## **Gilded Ibis Head**

Egypt

Late Period, 26th-30th Dynasty, circa 713-332 B.C.,

Gilded Wood

L: 56 cm

A gilded wooden head of an ibis. The bird's head starts with its long thin neck and extends into the large pointed beak, forming a near-horizontal silhouette. The ridges down the beak and the circular eyes are deeply incised.

The ibis was sacred to the Egyptian god Thoth, god of wisdom and writing, who was often depicted with the head of an ibis. Representations of the ibis in copper alloy are some of the most numerous sacred animal statuettes, alongside the cat, falcon, and Apis bull. The prevalence of the ibis during the first millennium B.C., and the appeal of animal cult in general, can also be seen in the thousands of surviving ibis mummies, which were offered in animal necropolises throughout Egypt.