



**A MARBLE BUST OF VENUS BY BENJAMIN
EDWARD SPENCE**

Dimensions: H: 21 in / 53.5 cm | W: 15.5 in / 39 cm

10521



A Marble [Bust](#) of Venus

By Benjamin Edward Spence (1823-1866)

Carved from statuary [marble](#), the female bust representing Venus, the goddess of Love & Beauty, in the nude, wearing a diadem adorned with carved dolphins and a shell symbolising her birth from the sea as told in Hesiod's Theogony. Signed 'B. Spence fecit Romæ 1855.'

Anglo-Italian, dated 1855

Literature:

Benjamin Edward Spence (1823-1866)

Benjamin Edward Spence was a 19th-century English sculptor known for his elegant and often sentimental marble figures in the Neoclassical style. Born in Liverpool in 1822, he was the son of sculptor William Spence.

Spence moved to Rome in 1846, where he became a pupil in the studio of Richard James Wyatt and also received guidance from the prominent sculptor John Gibson. He spent most of his professional life in Rome, although he visited England annually where he exhibited at the Royal Academy for several years.

His work, primarily executed in white marble, includes portrait busts, mythological figures, and statues inspired by literary themes. He is perhaps best known for his statue "Highland Mary" (after the Robert Burns poem), which was exhibited internationally and a version of which was commissioned for Queen Victoria. Upon his death in 1866, the Art Journal commented his works "were characterised by a great purity of feeling."