

**Bust of Aphrodite, Greek,
c. 1st century BC. Marble, ht 50 cm.
Charles Ede Ltd, around €750,000**

‘Aphrodite armata’ – the goddess of love armed – is not a common subject. Also known as the Aphrodite of Epidauros (where she had a sanctuary), the type has only the right breast exposed. Her chiton would have been draped over her left shoulder; the strap for her scabbard crosses her right. She gazes downwards, lips parted. Even without her magic girdle, she looks irresistible. Apart from her right arm, this fragment appears to be complete, as the left edge is an ancient surface, suggesting that the chiton was formed from another block of stone – there is a tenon hole for the attachment.

