



MOTTLED BROWN CAT HEADREST

\$880

c. 1900 • Shanxi, China • Ceramic • Collection #BJGG031D

W: 12.5" D: 5.25" H: 6.0"

To keep her elaborate hairstyle intact while sleeping, a well-to-do Qing-dynasty woman once used this ceramic headrest as a pillow. The headrest is shaped as a crouching house cat, cloaked in a beautifully irregular warm brown glaze. Drawn upon its forehead is the Chinese character for 'king,' suggesting that this playful cat embodies the spirit of a tiger. The tiger is known as the "king of the wild beasts" in Chinese folklore, and remains an emblem of courage, dignity, and ferocity. Continued...



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Believed to protect against evil spirits, this fearsome cat is the ideal guardian for a headrest pillow, protecting its owner while she dreams.



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