Artist:
Title: Upper Part of a Naophorus Statue
Geography: Egypt
Period: New Kingdom, Dynasty 19 - Dynasty 20
Date: 1292-1077 BC
Culture: Egyptian
Medium: Black granite
Credit Line: Gift of Sally and Joe Gladden in honor of Joop Bollen, 2014 Woolford B. Baker Service Award recipient
Dimensions: 8 x 7 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. (20.3 x 19.1 x 16.5 cm)
Object number: 2014.020.001

Label Text: This imposing bust probably came from a naophorous statue from a temple that represented a man offering a shrine or naos to the gods. The style of the face, the elaborate wig, and the pleated sleeves on his garment identify the date of the sculpture as Ramesside Period (the 19th-20th Dynasty). Black granite is difficult to carve, but the sculptor managed to add a touch of personality into this engaging portrait. The name of the man is not preserved, but a hieroglyphic text on the back of the sculpture invokes "The God's Wife, the Great Royal Wife [Ahmose Nefertari]". Ahmose Nefertari was the daughter of one of Egypt's most revered queens, Ahhotep. She lived during a time when the Theban princes battled the Hyksos to regain control of Egypt and found the New Kingdom. Wife of king Ahmose, Ahmose Nefertari may also have served as regent for the young king Amenhotep I. Ahmose-Nefertari was deified after her death and worshipped in the Theban area along with Amenhotep I. She is depicted and mentioned in as many as 50 Theban tombs and invoked on at least 20 votive statues, such as this example.

Published References:
Christie's New York, Antiquities (December 18, 1997), 30, number 71.