



"purity" - Joseph Bernard (1866-1931)



14 000 EUR

Signature : Bernard

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 29 cm

Description

"Purity"

also known as "Bust of a young girl"

Bust in bronze with a nuanced dark brown patina

Signed " J Bernard " and marked " N 3 "

Sand cast

Cast by the artist

Raised on a wooden base

France

circa 1910

height of the bronze : 24 cm

total height with its base : 29 cm

The model of this head is a study made for the pink marble bust entitled "Purity" or "Bust of a young girl". This head belongs to the "inner

Dealer

Galerie Tourbillon

Specialist Sculptures 19th and 20th century, Art Nouveau

15 rue drouot

Paris 75009

faces" series.

An edition of eight bronze casts was produced after 1910. Our copy bearing number 3 is listed in the book "Joseph Bernard", René Jullian, Ed. Fondation de Courbertin, 1989, p.303, n°164.

our web catalog link :

<https://galerietourbillon.com/bernard-joseph-puret>
e/

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Biography :

Joseph Bernard (1866-1931) was a French sculptor. He was the son of a stonemason, and learnt to work stone and marble in his youth. He acquired a classical training at the School of Fine Arts in Lyon in 1881, then at the School of Fine Arts in Paris where he entered in 1887 in the studio of Jules Cavelier. He neglected education somewhat, working in a printing house at night and sculpting the day. He admired Auguste Rodin, his youth work proved it, but did not work for him. Joseph Bernard dedicated his time to clay sculptures: "Hope Vanquished" in 1891, "The Burden of Life", Monument to Peace of which only fragments remain. His first public commission was the Monument to Michel Servet for his native city of Vienne, in Isère, built between 1905 and 1911.

Little by little, Bernard decisively freed himself from Rodin's influence for an ever more sober way, renouncing all realistic detail. Known by an exhibition in 1908, Bernard was one of the only French sculptors exhibited at the Armory Show in New York in 1913 and a retrospective was devoted to him at the Salon d'Automne in 1911. Perfect incarnation of the post-Rodinian reaction, he pioneered an independent path between the expressionism of Antoine Bourdelle and the classicism of Aristide Maillol.

It was a very productive period where figures of young girls were modeled in plaster and then polished like a stone. Joseph Bernard made statues very stylized, smooth, synthetic modeling. He also produced modeled works for bronze cast, such as "The Girl with the Pitcher" in 1910, and "The Woman with the Child". In 1913 he sculpted a marble bas-relief, one of his masterpieces: "The Frieze of Dance", but he was struck by a cerebral congestion that left him hemiplegic and slowed down his activity. He only started drawing again in 1917 and carving in 1918.

Joseph Bernard settled in Boulogne-sur-Seine in 1921 in the studio he owned in the garden of his house. He was present in 1925 at the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative Arts and Industrial alongside François Pompon and Roger Reboussin in the Pavilion Ruhlmann, a close friend, with many bronze works as well as an enlarged version of "La Frise de la Danse". He received orders from the state, and at the end of his life devoted himself to drawing and watercolor.