



Polar Bears - Bronze By Marcel Debut (1865-1933), Art Deco Influence

4 800 EUR



Signature : Marcel Debut

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 40

Width : 32

Height : 23

Description

This rare bronze sculpture by Marcel Debut (1865-1933) presents a unique departure from his more frequently encountered mythological and allegorical themes, venturing into the realm of animalier sculpture. The piece depicts two polar bears, one resting and the other in an alert posture, rendered with a masterful blend of naturalism and expression. The textured modeling of the fur and musculature reflects Debut's strong academic training while incorporating an impressionistic approach to surface treatment. A notable aspect of this sculpture is its curved base, a subtle yet clear indication of Art Deco influence. Unlike traditional animalier works, which often rest on rigid, symmetrical bases, this dynamic foundation lends a sense of fluidity to the composition, reinforcing the motion and

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Art of the 19th century- Animalier bronzes

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interaction between the two animals. This element suggests that the piece was created during the later period of Debut's career, as Art Deco aesthetics--with their emphasis on stylized and elegant forms--began to shape sculptural design. The choice of subject, polar bears, is also intriguing within the animalier tradition. While French sculptors of the late 19th and early 20th centuries frequently depicted felines, horses, and other terrestrial animals, this work stands out for its intimate, contemplative depiction of arctic wildlife. Rather than emphasizing a dramatic hunting or combat scene, Debut captures a quiet moment of interaction between the two bears, showcasing his ability to infuse emotion and realism into his subjects. The patina of the bronze is rich and varied, enhancing the play of light on the textured surface and contributing to the lifelike quality of the sculpture. The artist's signature "Debut" is clearly visible, further confirming its authenticity. With its balance of academic realism, impressionistic texture, and Art Deco design principles, this bronze sculpture is a remarkable testament to Marcel Debut's versatility as an artist. Its combination of naturalistic observation, expressive modeling, and modernist elegance makes it a rare and desirable piece within the canon of French animalier sculpture.