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Diana And The Hounds, A Bronze Sculpture By Giuseppe Joseph D'aste (1881-1945)



5 200 EUR

Signature : Giuseppe Joseph

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 60

Width : 15.5

Height : 56

Description

Diana and the Hounds by Giuseppe Joseph D'Aste is a finely executed silvered bronze sculpture from the 1920s, cast using the lost-wax (cire perdue) method. This technique, known for its precision, has allowed for a high level of detail in the rendering of the figures. The piece is signed J. D'Aste and bears the foundry seal of Susse Frères, Paris, a well-respected French foundry. Additionally, the underside is inscribed with "Première Épreuve" (First Cast) and "Made in France", indicating that this was the earliest cast produced. The sculpture depicts Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt, standing with a poised yet natural stance. Her arms extend gently towards two greyhounds, positioned at either side. The dogs, often associated with nobility and hunting, are portrayed in different attitudes--one

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kneeling and looking up, while the other stands attentively. This variation in their posture creates a subtle sense of movement and interaction. The composition is anchored by a stylized base featuring wave-like bas-relief motifs, adding a decorative element while also grounding the figures. The silvered finish of the bronze lends a soft, reflective quality, enhancing the contours of the sculpture without being overly ornate. The style of the piece reflects a combination of classical influences and Art Deco aesthetics. Diana's proportions and simplified facial features recall ancient Greek and Roman sculpture, yet the clean lines and stylized base suggest a more modern sensibility typical of the 1920s. The careful balance between idealization and naturalism gives the work a refined presence. Beyond its formal qualities, the subject matter carries a symbolic dimension. Diana, often depicted with hounds, represents independence, protection, and the untamed aspects of nature. The greyhounds reinforce this theme, acting as both companions and symbols of speed and vigilance. The presence of the Susse Frères foundry mark and the *Première Épreuve* inscription adds to the historical and artistic interest of the piece, as Susse Frères was known for producing high-quality bronzes during this period. With its well-balanced composition and careful attention to detail, *Diana and the Hounds* is a strong example of early 20th-century bronze sculpture, reflecting both classical themes and the stylistic evolution of Art Deco design.