Antique Woman's Mask - Henry Cros (1840-1907)



6 000 EUR

Signature : Cros
Period : 20th century
Condition : Très bon état
Material : Glass paste
Height : 16 cm

Description

Polychrome glass paste
presented on a wooden panel

France
circa 1900

height 16 cm
width 10 cm
panel : 25,4 x 19,4 cm

Biography :
César Isidore Henry Cros, known as Henry Cros (1840-1907), was a French sculptor, painter, ceramist, and glassmaker master.
Born into a family of intellectuals, he began painting in 1854. He studied under

Dealer

Galerie Tourbillon
Specialist Sculptures 19th and 20th century, Art Nouveau

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the sculptors François Jouffroy and Antoine Étex and the painter Jules Valadon at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He made his debut at the 1861 Salon, presenting a bust of his brother Charles Cros. In 1863, he participated in the Salon des Refusés, exhibiting three plaster casts. Between 1869 and 1880, Henry Cros became known to discerning art critics for his research. Cros began by developing an interest in wax and reproducing several of his sculptures in this material, even inventing an encaustic painting process. He later turned his attention to ceramics and produced stoneware. Henry Cros eventually began practicing glassmaking and participated in the development of the modern glass paste technique. His unique work, free from any form of academicism and belonging to Art Nouveau, was inspired in particular by themes from European Antiquity.

Henry Cros participated in the 1889 Universal Exhibition in Paris, where he presented eight low-reliefs, seven of which were made of glass paste and one of marble. He was awarded a silver medal. Cros worked in particular at the Manufacture nationale de Sèvres, where the State granted him a studio in 1891 as well as an annual subsidy. He successively received two important commissions from the State for large compositions in polychrome glass paste, "The History of Water" (1892) - now preserved at the Musée d'Orsay - and "The History of Fire" (1892), then in 1905 a commission from the City of Paris for "The Apotheosis of Victor Hugo", presented at the Victor Hugo House.

Recognized by his peers, but ignored by the

general public, a letter
from Antoine Bourdelle addressed to Jean Cros,
his son, unequivocally attests
to his admiration for the artist: "How many times
Rodin said to me:
Bourdelle, we all have a great duty to fulfill
towards Henry Cros. We seem to be too unaware
that he is a great artist.
His form touches on the most beautiful laws of
ancient art from the greatest
times and without speaking of his genius as the
inventor of his colored glass
paste, his work as a painter, as a draftsman, his
work as a sculptor makes him
a unique master who is sufficient for the glory of
his time and his
nation." (words taken from the exhibition catalog
"Henry Cros",
published by Chantal Kiener, 2017).