



Jef Lambeaux, Le Faune Mordue, Large Mythological Bronze

3 750 EUR



Signature : Jef Lambeaux (1852-1908)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 62 cm

Height : 40 cm

Depth : 40,5 cm

Description

Bronze with nuanced brown patina, Le faune mordue, by Jef Lambeaux (1852-1908). Signed 'Jef. Lambeaux'. Probably cast by the Fonderie Nationale des Bronzes (SAINT-GILLES-BRUSSELS). Circa 1900. The sculpture depicts the Roman rural god as he throws himself upon a voluptuous woman. In self-defense she turns and bites the faun on the ear, since he attempted to abduct her. Lambeaux completed the work in the late 19th century. It was soon showcased at six exhibitions across Brussels, Paris, Düsseldorf, and Saint Louis. The piece received widespread critical acclaim and was honored with a medal. This stood in stark contrast to the reception in Liège two years later, in 1905, during the International Exposition. Despite catching the eye of Auguste Rodin and

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receiving positive reviews, many considered the sculpture too nude and too sensual. As a result, the work became the target of ridicule in the press and was eventually withdrawn from public display at the Exposition, labeled a 'forbidden' piece. For this reason, Lambeaux requested the piece to be classified as hors concours, making it ineligible for prizes at the Liège World's Fair. In preparation for the International Exposition, the gardens around the Palace of Fine Arts were expanded, and numerous sculptures were acquired. Despite the criticism, the Liège city council decided to purchase the sculpture in 1905--thereby seeking to redress the disparagement of Lambeaux's creation. Around 1950, the sculpture was placed in the rose garden of La Boverie, which it continues to grace to this day.