



Bronze Sculpture "science Guiding Industry" By émile Picault (1833-1915)



3 500 EUR

Signature : Émile Picault (1833-1915)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 12,50

Width : 12,50

Height : 41

Description

The sculpture is a bronze work by the French artist Émile Picault (1833-1915). It is typical of his allegorical figures and combines meticulous figurative work with a moralizing or philosophical message. 1. Description: The work depicts a young, athletic male figure standing, dressed in an apron or simple work clothes, suggesting a craftsman or laborer. - Posture and Expression: The figure has a dynamic posture, his body leaning slightly forward. His gaze is directed downwards, towards the work at his feet. He holds in his hands, or under his arm, a notebook or tablet, perhaps containing plans or drawings, and tools (a chisel or measuring instrument is visible). This posture emphasizes his action and concentration. - Base and Symbolism: The figure stands on a base on which

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are arranged tools and symbols of progress and work, such as gears, an oil lamp (symbolizing knowledge or enlightenment), and a hammer. -

Caption: The most explicit part of the message is engraved on a scroll or banner on the front of the base (visible in the E. Picault image). The

inscription in French is: "SCIENCE GUIDANT L'INDUSTRIE" (Science Guiding Industry). The entire work is an allegory of the importance of knowledge, science, and rationality (Science) in illuminating and directing practical work and production (Industry). 2. Artistic Movement: The

work of Émile Picault, and in particular this sculpture, belongs to the Academic Art (or Academicism) movement and the Allegorical Style of the second half of the 19th century.

Justifications based on the work: - Academic

Realism (Figurative): The treatment of the human body is anatomically correct and idealized, following classical canons of beauty. The sculptor emphasizes the muscles and drapery of the garment (apron) in a highly detailed and technical manner, a hallmark of classical training in the

Academies of Fine Arts. - Allegory and

Moralism: The work is not a simple portrait, but the personification of an abstract idea (science and industry). This penchant for allegorical, historical, or mythological subjects carrying a moral or patriotic message was central to Academic Art. The explicit inscription

("SCIENCE LEADING INDUSTRY") is a characteristic feature of this style, leaving no doubt as to the profound meaning of the composition. The message celebrates the

industrial age and faith in technical and scientific progress. - The Material (Bronze): The use of bronze for casting decorative figures for parlors or cabinets was extremely popular at this time, meeting a bourgeois demand for accessible, high-quality art objects. Picault produced numerous pieces for the market. 3. Artist

Biography: Émile Louis Picault (1833-1915)

Émile Picault was a French sculptor, particularly active and renowned during the Belle Époque

(late 19th and early 20th centuries). - Life and Career: Born in 1833, Picault exhibited his works regularly at the prestigious Paris Salon from 1863 until 1914, a testament to his success and artistic longevity. He worked primarily in bronze. - Preferred Subjects: He is best known for his prolific production of allegorical, mythological, and historical figures, as well as warrior heroes and figures related to the arts and crafts. His subjects are often accompanied by titles and Latin or French maxims, as is the case here. - Style: His style, highly representative of Academic Art, is characterized by great technical skill, an impeccable finish, and a theatrical expressiveness in his figures. He was one of the most popular bronze sculptors of his time, his works widely distributed by art foundries. - Legacy: Picault is considered a master of decorative bronze from this period. His works are highly collected today and embody the values of hard work, progress, and intellectual heroism cherished by the bourgeoisie of the French Third Republic.