



Persian Cat - Theophilus Alexander Steinlen (1859-1923)

6 000 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 25,8 cm

Description

A bronze sculpture with a nuanced dark brown patina
Titled on the base "Chat de Perse"
Signed on the base "Steinlen"
Old posthumous cast
Presented on its original red griotte marble base

France

1st half of the 20th century

total height 12,5 cm

base 25,8 x 17,8 cm

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15 rue drouot

Paris 75009

Biography :

Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen

(1859-1923) was a Swiss anarchist artist, painter, engraver, illustrator,

poster artist and sculptor, naturalized French in 1901. Originally from

Germany, the Steinlen family was admitted to the bourgeoisie of Vevey in 1831.

His Grandfather Théophile-Christian (Gottlieb)

(1779-1847) taught drawing in

Vevey, and one of his brothers, Marius Steinlen

(1826-1866), was a painter, a

pupil of Charles Gleyre.

Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen studied

theology at the University of Lausanne for two years, then, in 1879, turned to

art, following a training in industrial ornament drawing in Mulhouse, in

Schoenhaupt's workshop, before moving to Paris with his wife Émilie in 1881.

Having been living since 1883 on the hill of Montmartre, Steinlen quickly

became acquainted with the artistic personalities who gravitated there and

frequented from 1884 "The Black Cat", the cabaret held by Rodolphe

Salis. He then knew Aristide Bruant and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec who became

his friend. He exhibited initially at the Salon des Indépendants, in 1893, then

regularly at the Salon of the Humourists.

Opponent of injustice, sympathetic to the disinherited, then numerous in

Montmartre, Steinlen depicted scenes

from the street, factories, mine, staging beggars, workers in misery, ragged

kids and prostitutes. Steinlen was also the

specialist of cats, which he drew

without tiring, in all their fantasy, playing, asleep or angry. He also drew

female nudes.

Steinlen preferred drawing and pastels to depict the daily life of the street and his small trades and also developed an engraved work, using the same themes as in his drawings, or by mixing politics. But it was especially his posters that, like that of the "Black Cat Tour", were at the origin of his popularity. He collaborated with various humorous illustrated newspapers such as "Gil Blas", "L'Assiette au Beurre", "Le Rire" and "Les Humoristes", which he founded in 1911 with Jean-Louis Forain and Charles Léandre.

Steinlen also had a reputation in sculpture on the theme of cats.