



## Japanese Bronze Sculpture By Murata Hiroshi: Hare



550 EUR

Signature : Murata HIROSHI (???) (°1936)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 10 cm

Depth : 12 cm

### Description

This elegant sculpture of a hare is the work of Murata HIROSHI (???), an accomplished Japanese sculptor and master metalworker from Takaoka City, one of Japan's most important historic centers for bronze casting. Born in Takaoka in 1936, where he continues to live and work, Murata belongs to a lineage of artisans and artists who have shaped the city's reputation for technical excellence in metal arts. Murata studied under Murata Yoshio, a councilor of the Nippon Exhibition, and received rigorous training in prototype and mold-making (pen mold) techniques--foundational skills that would later define the exceptional precision and refinement of his work. From 1952 onward, he was active at the Takaoka City Metal Technical Guidance Center, where he played a key role in teaching

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casting technology and design within the copper and bronze industries, contributing both as an artist and as an educator. His artistic achievements were recognized early. In 1958, he was awarded the Takaoka Mayor's Prize at the Takaoka City Exhibition. From 1964 onward, he was selected six times for the Nippon Exhibition (Nitten) and was also chosen on multiple occasions for the Japan Contemporary Crafts Exhibition, confirming his standing within Japan's most prestigious exhibition circuits. Murata Hiroshi is particularly admired for his subtle decorative production, a field in which his work is often described as possessing a "transcendent technique." Rather than overt ornamentation, his sculptures display restraint, balance, and a quiet sophistication, achieved through absolute control of form, surface, and material. The present sculpture depicts a hare, a subject deeply rooted in Japanese symbolism and closely associated with the zodiac sign (Usagi). The animal is rendered in a composed, alert posture, its form compact yet animated by a sense of latent energy. Murata's treatment avoids anecdote or exaggeration, favoring instead a distilled realism that conveys dignity, harmony, and inner vitality. Cast in bronze with a refined German silver (nickel silver) patination, the surface exhibits a soft, silvery luminosity subtly modulated by darker tones. The contrast between delicately incised fur details and smoothly polished volumes exemplifies Murata's mastery of metal and his sensitivity to tactile and visual nuance. This work stands as a compelling example of postwar Japanese metal sculpture, uniting the technical heritage of Takaoka with a modern sculptural sensibility. It is a piece for collectors of Japanese bronzes, contemporary craft, or zodiac-themed works, and a testament to Murata Hiroshi's enduring contribution to the art of metal.