



Japanese Bronze Sculpture By Nakamura Akira : Horse

1 300 EUR



Signature : Nakamura AKIRA ?? ? (1913-1993)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 24 cm

Height : 22 cm

Description

This refined bronze sculpture is the work of Nakamura AKIRA ?? ? (1913-1993), an important yet understated figure of postwar Japanese sculpture. Born in Ogaki, Gifu Prefecture, in 1913, Nakamura worked under the art name Akira (?); his given name was Jiro (??). Trained in sculpture at the Imperial Art School, he developed a strong academic foundation before establishing a highly personal sculptural language grounded in form, restraint, and presence. A long-standing member of the Ichiyokai Art Association, Nakamura exhibited regularly from the 1950s onward and became particularly known for his figurative and animal sculptures, with the horse emerging as a central and recurring subject. For the artist, the horse was not a symbol of spectacle or heroism, but a vehicle for exploring

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mass, balance, and inner vitality. The present bronze exemplifies Nakamura's mature style. The horse is depicted standing, head gently lowered, its posture calm yet charged with quiet strength. The modeling is sensitive and controlled: muscular structure is suggested rather than emphasized, and the surface retains a tactile quality that speaks to the sculptor's hand. The dark, nuanced patina absorbs light, enhancing the sense of gravity and introspection. The sculpture captures not motion, but a moment of stillness -- a pause rendered permanent in bronze. This sense of restraint is fundamental to Nakamura's work. Influenced by Western realism yet deeply rooted in Japanese aesthetics, he favored understatement and balance over dramatic gesture. His sculptures possess a contemplative quality, inviting prolonged viewing and rewarding close attention. Nakamura's reputation extended well beyond the studio. He was entrusted with several notable public commissions, many of which remain in situ today. These include the portrait sculpture of Kanamori Yoshijiro in Ogaki Park (1949), the elegant Diana Goddess installed in Yatsu Park (1958), and the well-known Rooster placed in front of Gifu Station (1959). Later works such as *????* (A Grain of Seed), created for the Ogaki City Water Park in 1983, demonstrate his continued engagement with public space and symbolic form. Bronze sculptures by Nakamura Akira are appreciated by collectors for their sculptural integrity, refined modeling, and quiet authority. This work represents a fine example of his animal bronzes, combining presence, balance, and timeless elegance -- a piece well suited to a discerning private collector or a focused presentation of modern Japanese sculpture.