



Japanese Bronze Sculpture By Ikeda Yûhachi - Boar



800 EUR

Signature : Ikeda Yuhachi (????), (1886-1963)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Length : 24 cm

Height : 16 cm

Description

This powerful bronze sculpture depicts a boar in full stride, a subject that allowed Ikeda Yuhachi to explore raw vitality and concentrated strength with remarkable conviction. In contrast to the tranquil intimacy of his maternal groups, here the artist embraces momentum and tension. The boar moves close to the ground, its body thrust forward, head outstretched, tail erect--a compact mass of energy compressed into motion. The composition is strikingly horizontal and grounded. The animal propels itself across a rugged base that evokes earth and undergrowth, anchoring the movement while reinforcing the sense of propulsion. The sculptor avoids anecdotal details; instead, he focuses on mass, weight, and anatomical structure. The shoulders and hips express latent strength, and the slightly

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lowered head suggests alert determination rather than aggression. The result is not theatrical drama, but controlled intensity. The surface treatment is particularly striking. Ikeda animates the bronze with vigorous, tactile modeling that captures the rough texture of the hide and the boar's grain without resorting to literalism. Broad, assertive, and precise tool marks remain visible, creating a living skin, a play of light and shadow. Smooth areas alternate with more agitated ones, emphasizing the animal's muscular rhythm. The rich, dark brown patina accentuates this sculptural vitality; the light glides across the irregular surface, revealing the artist's mastery and profound anatomical knowledge. In this work, realism is combined with intense expressiveness. The boar is not simply depicted: it is embodied. The sculpture conveys weight, movement, and instinct with an economy of means characteristic of Ikeda's mature animal bronzes from the 1930s and 40s. This piece is among his most dynamic explorations of the animal form. Ikeda Yuhachi (????), born in 1886 in Kagawa Prefecture, studied at the Tokyo School of Fine Arts under Asakura Fumio, a central figure in modern Japanese academic sculpture. Nicknamed "Yuhachi of the Horses" (????) for his celebrated equine sculptures, his work encompasses a wide variety of animals--hares, dogs, goats, and wild creatures--each depicted with keen anatomical awareness and restrained emotional depth. His works were regularly exhibited at the national Bunten, Teiten, and Nitten exhibitions, and he later served on the juries, further solidifying his status as a recognized artist. International recognition followed thanks to his participation in Olympic art competitions, with works exhibited at the 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. After World War II, despite material shortages, Ikeda continued to sculpt, often in wood, and remained active until his death in 1963. Today, his bronzes are featured in major Japanese public collections and are increasingly sought after by international collectors for their

synthesis of Western academic realism and a distinctly Japanese sensitivity to nature. This bronze, dating from around 1930-1940, exemplifies Ikeda Yuhachi's ability to transform meticulous observation into striking sculptural force, capturing not only the animal's form but also its profound instinct.