Japanese Bronze Sculpture By Misawa Hiroshi: Three Rabbits



1 200 EUR

Signature : Misawa HIROSHI (1901-1993)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Width : 24 cm

Height : 13 cm

Depth : 18 cm

Description

This finely cast bronze group of three resting rabbits is a sensitive example of early 20th-century Japanese animal sculpture by Hiroshi Misawa (1901-1993). Created around 1930, the work reflects the refined naturalism and gentle intimacy that characterized Misawa's approach to animal subjects during the formative years of the early Showa era. The composition features three rabbits huddled together, their compact bodies forming a gently undulating horizontal mass. Two of the animals are seated with pricked ears and attentive gazes, while the third sits lower, its head tucked in a calmer posture. This subtle variation in posture introduces a peaceful rhythm to the group and animates the otherwise serene composition. Rather than isolating each animal, Misawa unites

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them into a harmonious sculptural whole, suggesting warmth, companionship, and the instinctive closeness of resting animals. The bronze casting reveals the sculptor's sensitivity to form and texture. The rounded backs and heads with their supple contours are modeled with assured and fluid mastery, while delicate indications of fur and musculature enliven the surface. Misawa avoids excessive descriptive detail; instead, the fluidity of the modeling evokes the animals' lifelike presence. The dark patina accentuates the sculpture's tactile quality, allowing light to glide across its subtly irregular surface and highlighting the natural curvature of the forms. Created by sculptor Misawa Hiroshi, from Shimosuwa City in Nagano Prefecture, the work also reflects regional metalworking traditions long associated with central Japan. A respected figure in the Japanese art world, Misawa directed the prestigious NIFU exhibition in Tokyo for fifty years, a testament to his enduring influence and importance among modern Japanese sculptors. Born in 1901, Misawa belonged to the generation of artists who helped define modern Japanese bronze sculpture in the early 20th century. His work frequently centered on animals, a subject that allowed him to combine careful observation with expressive modeling. In this harmonious group of rabbits, he transforms a humble subject into a poetic and understated study of companionship and balance, demonstrating a refined sensitivity to form and the serene rhythms of the natural world.