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Paul Dubois, "military Courage", Bronze, Barbedienne Cast Iron, Late 19th Century



2 600 EUR

Signature : Paul Dubois (1829-1905)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 30 cm

Height : 69 cm

Depth : 27 cm

Description

An imposing patinated bronze sculpture depicting an allegory of military courage in the form of a man dressed in classical attire, wearing a lion skin (evoking Hercules' victory over the Nemean lion) and a helmet surmounted by a dragon. Seated on a rock, he rests his left hand on a sword and his right hand on his thigh. The composition is reminiscent of Michelangelo's statue of Giuliano de' Medici for the Sagrestia Nuova in the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence. This is a reduced version of one of four bronze sculptures created by Dubois in 1879 for the cenotaph of General de Lamoricière, a figure of the conquest of Algeria, located in the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Nantes. A plaster version of "Military Courage" was also exhibited at the Salon of 1876. It bears the signature "P. DUBOIS" and the

Dealer

**Petit Antiquités**

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Collas mechanical reduction stamp on the reverse. The signature "F. BARBEDIENNE FOUNDRY" is on the left side of the base. An inscription visible on the front of the base reads "GIVEN BY THE GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY/TO Mr. A. DE LESELEUC DE KEROUARA/1840-1901". Paul Dubois (1829-1905) was a French sculptor and painter, the great-grandnephew of Jean-Baptiste Pigalle. After studying law, he turned to an artistic career and began training at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, before traveling to Italy. From Milan to Naples, by way of Rome, Venice, and Orvieto, he absorbed the art of antiquity and the Italian primitives, but it was Florence and the Renaissance that influenced him most deeply, becoming, upon his return to Paris, the leading figure of the "neo-Florentine" group. At the same time, he also studied drawing and painting under the painter Jean-Jacques Henner. A regular exhibitor at the Salon, he presented a sculpture entitled "Florentine Singer of the 15th Century" there in 1865, which earned him a medal of honor. With his reputation now firmly established, he received important commissions, such as an equestrian statue of Constable Anne de Montmorency, created for the esplanade of the Château de Chantilly at the request of the Duke of Aumale, and a monument to Joan of Arc for the forecourt of Reims Cathedral. Appointed director of the Musée du Luxembourg in 1873, he took over the direction of the École des Beaux-Arts in 1878. Among his students was Camille Claudel before she met Auguste Rodin. Today, his works are exhibited in numerous museums throughout France. Visible traces of oxidation. Good overall condition. Late 19th century. Dimensions: H: 69 cm W: 30 cm D: 27 cm