



## Bronze Henry Dumaige



3 800 EUR

Signature : Henry Etienne DUMAIGE (1830 - 1888)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 77cm

### Description

Rare sculpture by the artist! Henry Etienne Dumaige 1830 - 1888 "La Patrie "  
Bronze with medal patina Height: 77cm Signature lower right circa 1886 Exhibition Probably a similar work shown at the 1886 Paris Salon Provenance:- private collection, Alsace This imposing bronze figure, with its remarkable presence, belongs to the most accomplished vein of French academic sculpture French academic sculpture of the second half of the 19th century. It represents a cavalryman - a cavalry officer - in a noble, meditative attitude. meditative attitude, an ideal synthesis of realistic military detail and allegorical exaltation. The figure, dressed in a tight-fitting cuirass and richly structured uniform, immediately evokes the elite

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corps of the French cavalry -  
cuirassiers or dragons - whose bravery was, in the  
collective imagination of the time, one  
of the nation's last ramparts. The  
saber, held with confidence, and the helmet  
thrown back, are part  
of this heroic iconography, tempered a certain  
interiority of gaze, almost melancholy. The  
composition is based on a subtle contrapposto:  
one leg bent, the other engaged, the  
left arm resting, giving the figure a natural  
breathing that breaks with any martial rigidity.  
This supple modeling, particularly evident in the  
treatment of fabrics - the pleats of the  
pants, the tension of the leather of the  
cuirass fringes of the shoulder pads - testifies to  
Dumaige's virtuoso skills, trained in the great  
tradition of Parisian academic  
sculpture. The terrace, adorned with finely  
chiseled plant motifs, features a lapidary  
inscription: "PATRIE",  
which elevates the figure of the simple to the rank  
of allegory. The work thus goes beyond the  
typical portrait to become an idealized  
embodiment of duty, sacrifice and attachment to the nation - a  
reading to be read in the historical context of the  
post-1870 war period, when public sculpture and  
publishing sculpture became a  
vehicle for renewed patriotic sentiment. Due to its  
scale - 76 cm - this work belongs to the  
large-format category of large-format bronzes,  
aimed at a cultivated bourgeois clientele,  
sensitive to civic values and academic  
aesthetics. However, it stands out for its  
particularly high quality of execution in the  
precision of the chasing and the richness of the  
deep brown patina with subtly  
modulated reflections. This sculpture is an  
emblematic example of Henry Dumaige's work,  
where rigorous academic  
vocabulary is combined with expressive  
sensitivity, in the service of a sublimated patriotic  
ideal.