



Henry De Waroquier (1881 - 1970) "australia" - 1920



2 500 EUR

Signature : Henry de Waro

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gouache

Width : 21cm

Height : 26,5cm

Description

Henry de Waroquier Paris, January 8, 1881 - December 31, 1970, Paris "L'Australie" mixed media, 26.5x21cm (on view) Signature lower right 1920 This 1920 work, entitled L'Australie, belongs to Henry de Waroquier's most daringly experimental period, when the artist explored the possibilities of a synthetic plastic language, nourished by multiple influences - cubist, symbolist and primitivist - without ever melting into any school. The composition features a monumental head, built by a powerful linear skeleton. The face, frontal and hieratic, is structured by a network of energetic black lines that cut the volumes into angular facets. This geometrization, far from strict analytical cubism, is an expressive stylization: planes superimpose and interlock to create an internal, almost

Dealer

Neustadt Galerie

Tableaux, objets d'art du Grand Est

Tel : 0388350218

Mobile : 0678528266

28 avenue de la Marseillaise

Strasbourg 67000

architectural tension. The gaze, with heavy eyelids and pupils simplified into oval shapes, dominates the composition with an almost hypnotic fixity. The eyes seem both closed and open, giving the figure a meditative, even visionary dimension. The nose, treated as a sharp vertical axis, becomes the structuring column of the whole, while the mouth, reduced to a few curved lines, participates in a graphic system rather than naturalistic modeling. The palette, restrained but intensely contrasting, articulates deep black, the reserved white of the paper, and accents of brick red and warm ochre. These tones are enhanced by pencil halftones and crosshatching, as well as flat tints of gouache that alternate between opacity and translucence. Incisive ink imposes the formal framework, while pencil brings vibratory, almost textile modulations to the shadowy areas. The title *L'Australie* opens up a field of symbolic interpretation. This is not an ethnographic representation, but an imaginary projection: here Waroquier summons a mythologized otherness, in line with European interest in so-called "primitive" arts at the beginning of the XXe century. However, unlike a simple formal appropriation, the artist transforms these reminiscences into a universal, almost totemic figure. The face evokes a ritual mask as much as an inner archetype, a synthesis of timeless humanity. In 1920, in an artistic context marked by the post-war recomposition of forms, this work testifies to the quest for a purified, essential language. Fragmentation is not rupture but new organization; stylization is not decorative simplification but symbolic condensation. By its graphic strength, chromatic economy and almost sculptural intensity, *L'Australie* eloquently illustrates the singularity of Henry de Waroquier: an independent artist, exploring the human figure as a territory for plastic experimentation and as a space for spiritual projection. Additional information : Excellent condition. Format with frame : 52x46cm.