



## Gladiator Bust - Richard Aurili - Patinated Terracotta



2 400 EUR

Signature : Richard Aurili (1834-1914)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Terracotta

Width : 51 cm

Height : 73 cm

Depth : 36 cm

### Description

Large bust depicting an antique gladiator of heroic appearance, rendered in a theatrical and expressive style characteristic of late 19th-century Historicist sculpture. Slightly turned to the right, the figure bears a dark and intense gaze. The powerfully modeled face (with prominent cheekbones, tightly closed mouth, and forehead shadowed by the helmet) conveys a restrained yet dramatic expression. The helmet, the central element of the composition, is inspired by Greco-Roman models, featuring large flared side wings and a vertical crest surmounted by a stylized flying fish. The bare torso reveals vigorous musculature, enhanced by a scale-like shoulder guard on the right shoulder and a decorative band crossing the chest. The intentional break of the bust reinforces the

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impression of an excavated archaeological fragment. The dark brown patina with bronze highlights gives the terracotta the appearance of aged metal and strengthens the decorative power of the work. The ensemble combines Romanticism and Neoclassicism in an idealized vision of the antique hero, imbued with strength and nobility. Richard Aurili was an Italian sculptor active between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Trained in the Italian academic tradition, he specialized in historical busts, antique figures, and decorative sculpture. His work is distinguished by expressive figures, richly detailed anatomies, and a pronounced taste for theatrical staging. Working primarily in terracotta, he paid particular attention to surface effects and patina. Today, Richard Aurili is sought after for the decorative quality of his busts and for the spectacular aesthetic characteristic of Italian Belle Époque sculpture. Terracotta proof with antique brown and gilt patina. Signed "R. Aurili" on the shoulder. Very good condition. Dimensions: H. 73 cm (28.7 in.)