



An Art Nouveau Mistletoe Bronze Chandelier, By The école De Nancy



4 300 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Diameter : 60 cm

Height : 50 cm

Description

An Art nouveau Mistletoe chandelier, École de Nancy

Parcel-gilt bronze, opaline

Nancy

ca. 1900-1910

50 x 60 x 60 cm (19.7 x 23.6 x 23.6 in.)

Attributed to the artiste-décorateur Jacques

Gruber on the basis of a similar chandelier held at the Musée de l'École de Nancy. In 1903, Gruber

designed an extensive office suite for the

executive Charles Masson, which included a

desk, bookcase, filing cabinet, paneling, and most

notably, five electric chandeliers. The ensemble

was titled *Au gui l'an neuf* -- a theme also

adopted for a series of vases by Joseph and Pierre

Mougin -- referencing a belief then prevalent in

public school manuals that the druidic ceremony

Dealer

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of gathering mistletoe (*Viscum album*) marked the New Year in ancient Gaul.

At least one of the chandeliers designed for the Masson commission features the same patinated bronze mistletoe leaves and opaline pearl fruits as the present example. This chandelier differs from the Masson model only in its scale and the specific section of the branch from which it originates, which is here tied with a slender gilded bronze cord.

The mistletoe motif occupied a central position in the repertoire of the École de Nancy, serving as a symbol of renewal and a marker of Gallic identity following the loss of Alsace and Moselle in 1870.

Émile Gallé had previously explored this iconography at the 1889 Exposition Universelle with his monumental table *Le Rhin*, carved by Victor Prouvé and inscribed with a passage from Tacitus's *Germania*: "The Rhine separates all of Germany from the Gauls." Gallé also exhibited a *Cabinet de chêne lorrain*, oeuvre française, adorned with bronze reliefs by Prouvé, one of which depicted a druid gathering mistletoe.

See Charles Delon, "Au gui l'an neuf !", *Manuel général de l'instruction primaire*, t. XX, 1884 and *Le Musée de l'École de Nancy. Oeuvres choisies*, Paris, 2009.