



## A Painted terracotta pug With Sulphide Eyes



2 600 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 45 cm

Width : 25 cm

Height : 52 cm

### Description

A painted terracotta pug Terracotta and sulphide Czech Republic Late 19th century 52 x 45 x 25 cm Painted terracottas of this type, most often depicting life-size pug with eyes in cristallo-ceramic known as 'sulphide', are frequently held to be of Austrian origin on the grounds of their resemblance to the small animal figurines of Friedrich Goldscheider. The hypothesis of a Victorian English production has also been put forward, most likely due to the breed itself and a strong tradition of animal sculpture in porcelain and terracotta in Staffordshire.

It seems more probable, however, that dog sculptures of this kind are of Czech manufacture: similar cold-painted terracotta dogs do indeed bear the mark of Johann Maresch (1821-1914), a

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Bohemian ceramicist whose manufactory was active in Ústí nad Labem, near the present German-Czech border. The use of sulphide -- the encrustation of ceramic forms within molten crystal or glass -- further supports this Bohemian hypothesis; and the fact that the Kingdom of Bohemia belonged to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy from the sixteenth century until 1914 might account for the Viennese reputation of these objects.