



## Zoomorphic, Anthropomorphic Statuette - Cat, Fox Or Devil, Demon - Folk Art

200 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

### Description

Late 19th century France - Massif Central A rare and endearing example of rural folk art, this carved wooden statuette depicts an anthropomorphic zoomorphic creature whose identification remains deliberately ambiguous. The character evokes in turn a cat, a fox or one of those fantastic figures from the popular imagination of the Massif Central countryside. Completely handcrafted from hardwood, the sculpture immediately seduces with its expressive power and singular character. The animal is depicted standing on its hind legs, with its front paws brought up against its body in an almost human attitude. This unusual posture lends it a particular presence, at once familiar and mysterious. The sculptor paid particular attention to the face. The pointed ears, half-open mouth

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and eyes formed by small inlaid brass studs accentuate the intensity of the gaze and reinforce the enigmatic character of the figure. Part observed animal, part imaginary creature, the work deliberately leaves room for interpretation. The statuette rests on a double turned circular pedestal. The underside retains ancient inscriptions carved into the wood with a point, presumably the name or initials of its maker, a particularly touching testimony to the personal approach that went into its creation. This type of sculpture occupied a singular place in rural and mountainous regions. Made during wintering periods or long evenings, these creations enabled self-taught craftsmen to express their imagination through woodworking. Today, they are precious testimonies to popular culture and local beliefs. The work perfectly illustrates the spirit of folk art: a free, sincere and spontaneous creation where mastery of the material takes precedence over any academic research. The rusticity of the gesture, the observation of the animal world and the discreet influence of rural legends combine here to give birth to a unique object, charged with poetry and mystery. Beautiful condition with wear from use, minor handling marks and superb antique brown patina. An old remnant of green felt is preserved under the perimeter of the base. Height: 16 cm Delivery: ALL DELIVERIES ARE MADE BY DHL EXPRESS ONLY.