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Léon Bureau (1866-1906) Large Bronze Pheasant



2 800 EUR

Signature : Léon Bureau (1866-1906)
Period : 19th century
Condition : Très bon état
Material : Bronze
Length : 64 cm
Height : 40 cm
Depth : 24 cm

Description

Provenance
Large animalier bronze sculpture signed L. Bureau on the base. Léon Bureau, a French sculptor active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, belongs to the tradition of French animalier sculpture, where close observation of nature is combined with movement, tension and expressive modelling. His works often depict wild animals, hunting subjects and naturalistic compositions, with particular attention given to posture, surface treatment and anatomical detail.
Description
The sculpture depicts a large pheasant captured in a vivid and dramatic pose. The bird stands on a naturalistic base modelled as rocky ground with vegetal elements, its beak open, neck raised and

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wings partly spread. The composition suggests a moment of sudden tension: the pheasant appears startled, on alert, possibly threatened or attacked by an unseen predator. The inclined body, extended tail, tense legs and open beak reinforce the impression of defence, alarm or imminent flight. The subject therefore goes beyond a purely decorative representation of a bird; it becomes a naturalistic scene centred on instinct, movement and the fragile instant before escape. The plumage is carefully rendered through a combination of smooth modelling, sharp incised lines and stronger relief, especially around the neck, wings and long tail.

Technique and materials

Cast bronze with a nuanced brown patina and gilt highlights, particularly visible on the wings, head, neck and tail. The casting shows fine chasing throughout, with carefully articulated feathers, beak, legs and naturalistic ground. The contrasted patina enhances the volumes and gives the sculpture a strong visual presence. The alternation between darker areas and golden accents creates depth and emphasises the dramatic movement of the bird.

Dating

French work from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, circa 1900. This dating is consistent with the naturalistic language of French animalier sculpture, the taste for hunting and wildlife subjects, and the quality of the bronze casting and patination.

Condition

Very good overall condition. Attractive old patina with minor wear consistent with age and handling, especially on the raised areas. The details remain clearly legible and the sculpture preserves a strong decorative and sculptural presence.

Function and display

A collector's bronze suitable for a study, library, cabinet of curiosities, classic interior or display devoted to French animalier sculpture. Its large size and dynamic composition make it

particularly effective as a central decorative object.

Dimensions

height - 40 cm

length - 64 cm

depth - 24 cm

base - 31 x 21 cm