



Jean Marais, Table Lamp



900 EUR

Signature : Jean MARAIS

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Ceramic

Description

Jean MARAIS (1913-1998) Table lamp
Lamp made of chamotte terracotta, signed "Jean Marais" and incised at the base. Vallauris, circa 1970
Dimensions: H 32 x D 16 cm
Lampshade: H 30.5 x D 30.5 cm
Total: H 58.5 cm
Terracotta table lamp featuring an architectural silhouette composed of a globular body resting on a slight circular base, topped by a pronounced shoulder and a long cylindrical neck. The surface is left in its natural pinkish-ochre hue and enlivened by extensive textural work. Irregular horizontal striations punctuate the body of the lamp, while numerous irregularities contribute to the material effect sought by the artist. The absence of glaze highlights the natural nuances of the firing and the tactile richness of the clay. The piece bears a handwritten signature, "Jean Marais," incised into

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the clay on the lower part of the body. The visible lampshade is original.

Analysis and Commentary: This lamp is part of the ceramic production developed by Jean MARAIS in Vallauris during the final decades of his career. While his fame remains inextricably linked to theater and cinema, the artist devoted a significant portion of his work to ceramics, a discipline in which he found a particularly personal means of expression. Beginning in the 1960s, Jean MARAIS gradually moved away from more narrative decorative works to favor more refined forms, based on the balance of volumes and the intrinsic qualities of the material. This exploration is fully evident in this lamp, whose appeal lies less in ornamentation than in the sculptural presence of the clay itself. The deliberately rough surface evokes so-called chamotte clays, obtained by incorporating fragments of crushed terracotta into the ceramic paste. This technique yields richer textures and a more mineral-like expression of the material. Without seeking a decorative effect, Jean MARAIS exploits the natural irregularities of the clay here to reinforce the piece's almost archaic character. The object's slender silhouette evokes certain vernacular Mediterranean forms while maintaining a great formal simplicity. This synthesis of artisanal tradition and modern sensibility constitutes one of the most distinctive aspects of his ceramic work.

Lamps by Jean MARAIS remain relatively rare on the market compared to his vases, bowls, or sculptures. Yet they particularly well illustrate his desire to blur the boundaries between utilitarian objects and artistic creation, in the spirit of the revival of the decorative arts that marked the second half of the 20th century.

Bibliography: Gilles Durieux, Jean Marais, biographie, Flammarion, Paris, 2005; Frédéric Lecomte-Dieu, Jean Marais, le bien-aimé, Éditions du Rocher, Monaco, 2013; Marion Garmier, Vallauris, Lands of Creation, Silvana Editoriale, Milan, 2013.

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