Bronze Double-spouted Pouring Vessel With Duck-head Spouts, Flanders, 15th Century



860 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Description

Bronze Double-Spouted Pouring Vessel with Duck-Head SpoutsFlanders, 15th CenturyDimensions:Length: 29 cmWidth: 15 cmHeight: 15.5 cm (32 cm with handle)Weight: 2.8 kgRare one-piece cast bronze pouring vessel featuring a globular body with two opposing spouts formed as stylized duck heads. The rim is flanked by two mounts decorated with schematic human faces supporting a movable swing handle terminating in a suspension ring.Through its decorative vocabulary, casting quality and powerful proportions, this piece belongs to the tradition of bronze pouring vessels produced in the Low Countries during the late Middle Ages. The animal-headed spouts, rendered with remarkable simplicity, together with the small anthropomorphic masks at the

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handle mounts, reflect a visual language still deeply rooted in medieval aesthetics.The bronze is particularly thick and substantial, as demonstrated by its impressive weight of 2.8 kilograms despite its relatively compact dimensions. The vessel remains in a notably well-preserved state.A cluster of old perforations is visible in the centre of the base, both inside and outside the vessel, and is fully integrated into the patina. These may indicate an early secondary use of the object, perhaps as an incense burner or brazier, although its later function can no longer be established with certainty.By its conception and zoomorphic decoration, the piece may be compared with the aquamaniles and pouring vessels produced in Flanders and the Meuse region during the late medieval period, while retaining a distinctive form of its own.Gallery's viewThis vessel is immediately distinguished by the beauty of its silhouette. The generous roundness of the globular body gives the bronze an almost sculptural presence, enhanced by the balance of the two opposing spouts that seem to emerge naturally from the form.Centuries of use have also created a remarkable surface. The deep patina, rich in warm brown tones and darker nuances, highlights every curve and subtle detail of the modelling. The interior, marked by age and use, provides a compelling contrast that contributes to the object's material history.Beyond its original function, which remains difficult to define with certainty, the piece captivates through its timeless character. The schematic faces, stylized duck heads and the monumental simplicity of its forms evoke a world still deeply medieval, where even a utilitarian object could achieve genuine artistic expression.