



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Bentwood And Brass Wall Coat Rack, Arts & Crafts, Austrian, Circa 1900



2 250 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 93

Width : 18

Height : 52

Description

Vienna around 1900 was the city of the Gesamtkunstwerk -- the total work of art. Inspired by the Wagnerian concept of aesthetic unity and galvanised by the founding of the Secession in 1897, a generation of Viennese architects, designers, and craftsmen declared that the designed interior was an indivisible whole: no element too minor to merit considered design, no object too functional to participate in the aesthetic programme. Otto Wagner designed his own door handles; Hoffmann drew his own cutlery; and the coat rack mounted in an entrance hall was as consciously conceived as the building's façade. This wall coat rack in bentwood and brass exemplifies the spirit of that moment. The bentwood armature -- produced by the steam-bending technique patented and

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popularised by Michael Thonet and his Viennese followers -- combines fluency of line with structural efficiency. The sinuous curves of the wood are held in tension by the precision of the brass fittings, whose clean profiles speak to an Arts & Crafts sensibility that valued the honest display of material and construction. The result is an object that belongs simultaneously to the workshop tradition and to the new aesthetic vocabulary of the Austrian Jugendstil. At 93 centimetres wide and 52 centimetres tall, this coat rack has the proportions of a significant wall element. Mounted at the entrance of a room or corridor, it would have functioned as an anchor for the interior, defining the threshold with a deliberate gesture. Today, such pieces are collected as evidence of the extraordinary moment when Vienna briefly became the design capital of Europe -- producing objects that prefigured the Modernist programme while remaining rooted in the craft traditions of the previous century.