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Japanese Bronze By Ito Kunio - Horse Drinking Water

750 EUR



Signature : Ito Kunio ???? (1890-1970)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Length : 22 cm

Height : 9 cm

Description

This finely modeled bronze work, by Ito Kunio ???? (1890-1970), bears witness with particular elegance to the sculptor's profound understanding of equine morphology. Born in Iwate Prefecture in 1890, Kunio devoted a large part of his artistic career to the study of the horse, establishing a distinguished reputation in the field of naturalistic animal sculpture. His participation in prestigious exhibitions, such as the Imperial Buntens, elevated him to the ranks of modern Japan's most notable sculptors. The work depicts a solitary horse bending down to drink, its muzzle almost touching the water's surface. Kunio transforms this simple subject into a study of remarkable poetry, blending movement and stillness. The graceful line of the neck curves toward the powerful body, while the lowered

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and its relaxed posture convey the animal's total immersion in this moment of natural calm. Kunio's exceptional mastery of equine anatomy is evident in the subtle modeling of the body. The sturdy shoulders, the gently curved flanks, the powerful hindquarters, and the limbs with their precise joints are rendered with remarkable economy of means and confidence. Rather than exaggerating movement, the sculptor captures the horse in a moment of stillness, allowing the body's natural tension and the elegance of the silhouette to lend the work all its expressive power. The rendering of the water surrounding the horse is particularly striking. The ground, modeled organically, features delicate irregularities evoking shallow water, thereby integrating the animal into its environment. The result is striking: the horse does not appear as a mere isolated academic study, but as a living being taking a drink at the water's edge. The sculpture is distinguished by a deep, almost black patina, whose subtle surface variations reveal the underlying form when light glances across it. This dark finish lends the bronze an understated and sophisticated presence, while the subtle highlights along the body highlight the sensitivity with which the sculptor has rendered the muscles, volumes, and contours. This work perfectly illustrates the qualities for which Kunio's animal bronzes are particularly admired: keen observation, anatomical precision, an economy of form, and a deep sensitivity to natural movement. Devoid of any superfluous theatricality, the sculpture reveals the beauty of a completely natural gesture, immortalized in bronze. Created within the context of early Showa-era Japanese sculpture, this piece exemplifies Kunio's refined synthesis of naturalistic modeling and Japanese aesthetics, characterized by restraint, balance, and elegant lines. Characterized by keen observation and endowed with a power that is at once restrained, this work transforms the simple gesture of a horse drinking into an image of remarkable serenity and

sculptural refinement.