



Borghese Gladiator, Bronze Grand Tour Sculpture, By F. H. Gladenbeck, 19th Century



3 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 53 cm

Height : 47 cm

Description

Patinated bronze Germany, late 19th century Height: 47 cm, width of the figure: 53 cm. Base: 19 × 33 cm. Marked on the base: Aktien-Gesellschaft v. H. Gladenbeck u. Sohn This bronze depicts the famous "Borghese Gladiator," captured at the moment of greatest tension in the fight, based on the renowned Hellenistic model housed in the Louvre Museum. The figure is depicted in a dynamic pose, completely nude, taking a large step forward, with his weight shifted onto his front leg and his torso turned in a pronounced contrapposto, while his arms extend in opposite directions, thereby reinforcing the dynamism of the composition. The meticulous anatomical modeling attests to a deep understanding of the human body and the classical sculptural tradition, with the

Dealer

Ladrón de Guevara

Fine Arts

Tel : +34 694275594

Mobile : +49 1727905946

Rivera de Curtidores, 29. Loc. 30

Madrid 28005

musculature highlighted by a refined surface treatment and a carefully applied patina in warm tones. The sculpture is mounted on a rectangular, tiered pedestal made of patinated bronze, designed to enhance the figure's monumentality and allow it to be fully appreciated from every angle. The sculpture is a reproduction of the "Borghese Gladiator," one of the most admired ancient sculptures since the Renaissance. Despite its traditional name, the figure does not depict a gladiator but most likely a Greek warrior in battle, generally identified as a hoplite facing an opponent on horseback. The original marble sculpture, created around the 1st century B.C. and attributed to Agasias of Ephesus, was discovered in Anzio in the early 17th century and quickly entered the Borghese collection in Rome, from which it derives its name. Its extraordinary anatomical precision and the balance between tension and movement have made it one of the fundamental models for the academic teaching of drawing and sculpture. After its acquisition by the Louvre in 1807, the "Borghese Gladiator" enjoyed immense international popularity and was reproduced in marble, bronze, and other materials by numerous European foundries and workshops throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, thus becoming one of the most representative icons of the revival of classical antiquity. This work was cast by the prestigious company Aktien-Gesellschaft von H. Gladenbeck und Sohn, whose mark is stamped on the base. Founded in 1851 by Carl Gustav Hermann Gladenbeck, the company relocated its operations to Berlin in 1857. In 1888, it was reorganized as a joint-stock company under the leadership of Hermann Gladenbeck and his sons Oskar and Alfred, thereby becoming Germany's leading artistic foundry and enjoying royal patronage. Its workshops earned an exceptional reputation for the quality of their castings and finishes; they collaborated with many of the great German sculptors of the time and produced works ranging from public monuments to collectible bronzes.

The foundry's mark is therefore an important guarantee of technical quality and places this sculpture among the finest examples of late 19th-century German bronze production.