



Jules Desbois (1851-1935) - "le Baiser," Rare Glazed Terracotta Sketch

3 000 EUR



Signature : Jules Desbois

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Terracotta

Description

Technical Specifications
Artist: Jules Desbois (Parçay-les-Pins, 1851 - Paris, 1935)
Title of the Work: Le Baiser (The Kiss)
Period: Circa 1890 (Fin de Siècle)
Style: Symbolist Sculpture / Rodin School
Technique and Material: Hand-modeled terracotta with original burnished patina
Dimensions: Width 20 cm | Height 13.5 cm
Signature: Engraved in the clay on the base "J. Desbois"
Condition: Excellent original condition, splendid period patina.
Description of the Work
A rare and captivating preparatory terracotta model with a patina depicting Le Baiser (The Kiss), an iconic composition created by the renowned French sculptor Jules Desbois (1851-1935) around 1890.
The Artist and His Connection to Auguste Rodin
Jules Desbois was one of Auguste Rodin's closest, most esteemed, and most talented

Dealer

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collaborators. He shared with his mentor a sculptural aesthetic, the expressive power of the human form, the rendering of taut musculature, and the pursuit of a vibrant, carnal emotionality.

The theme of figures locked in a passionate embrace places the work at the heart of late-19th-century Symbolism, alongside the masterpieces of Rodin (*Le Baiser*) and Camille Claudel (*Sakountala*), while at the same time foreshadowing the organic language of Art Nouveau.

Museum ReferencesThe definitive model of this famous composition was created by Desbois around 1890 in glazed stoneware (*grès émaillé*) in collaboration with master ceramist Auguste Delaherche; this example is now housed at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. Other examples and studies in plaster or bronze are found in the collections of the Petit Palais in Paris and in major international museums.

Analysis of the ExampleThis example stands out for the freshness and immediacy of its

modeling:Signature: Hand-engraved directly on the base ("J. Desbois"), fully consistent with the artist's historical autograph.

Modeling Quality:The application of the clay is lively and supple, with excellent transitions in volume that preserve the dynamic touch of the artist's initial concept.

Collectible Value: As a sketch or preparatory study, the work possesses a strong sense of creative intimacy and material authenticity--qualities particularly sought after by collectors of 19th- and early 20th-century sculpture.