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Art Deco Bronze Car Ornament: Seated Hare, Designed By André Vincent Becquerel Etling



1 100 EUR

Signature : Becquerel Etling

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 3,8

Height : 18,2

Description

Welcome to La Trésorerie!This stylized seated hare is an automotive mascot based on a model created in the 1920s by French sculptor André Vincent Becquerel for Etling Paris. Its oversized ears and prominent eyes give it an expression that is both comical and full of life. Becquerel also created a cat and a dog in the same style. His animal sculptures are now sought after by collectors.In the 1920s, automotive mascots were very popular. Drivers could personalize their cars by mounting a figurine of their choice on the radiator cap. Over time, these mascots gradually gave way to manufacturers' emblems. This hare model appears in the 1928 Mestre & Blatgé sales catalog, on page 57, under item number 16991
M.André Vincent Becquerel
(Saint-André-Farivillers, 1893 - Paris, 1981) was

Dealer

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a student of Hector Lemaire and the animal sculptor Prosper Lecourtier. He was a regular visitor to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, where he observed and sketched animals. He specialized in animal sculpture from an early age, with a particular fondness for predators, especially felines.From 1914 to 1922, Becquerel regularly exhibited at the Salon des Artistes Français. Initially a naturalist, his style became increasingly streamlined under the influence of Art Deco and modernism. This hare illustrates this evolution well. By emphasizing certain features, Becquerel gave the animal a character all its own.Becquerel also created ceramic models for Guillard, which were marketed by Etling. His bronzes were primarily produced by Susse Frères and Etling Paris. He was also able to cast his bronzes in his own studio. A few chryselephantine sculptures by him are also known, depicting mainly children and the elderly. He participated in several World's Fairs, including the one in Paris in 1937, and continued his work until around 1950.It's easy to imagine this hare darting through the streets of Paris in the 1920s and 1930s. It has been removed from its radiator cap, and the signature around the rim of the base is now illegible. The figurine is 18.2 cm tall, including the ears. Its base measures 3.8 cm at its widest point, and the entire piece weighs 624 g.BibliographyJean-Charles Hachet, Illustrated Dictionary of Sculptors & Casters from Antiquity to the Present, Argus Valentines, limited edition, 2005, Vol. I, p. 190, and Vol. II, p. 676.Thierry Roche, Biographical Dictionary of Sculptors of the 1920s-30s, Édition Beau-Fixe, 2007, p. 49.Bryan Catley, Art Deco and Other Figures, Baron Publishing, 1978, pp. 33-38, illustration on p. 370.Thank you for visiting La Trésorerie. Best regards, Ben!