



Ernst Barlach: Sculpture "The Pensive Man II" (1934), reduction in bronze

€1,680.00

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Ernst Barlach and the work of thinking

Barlach's sculpture "Pensive Man" was created in 1934, a year of great upheaval and crucial decisions for the artist. Barlach initially testified his loyalty to the Nazi art system by signing the declaration "Call to the Artists". However, the criticism towards him and his art from the same group, the criticism that had long been voiced against him by the same group, grew to such an extent that some of his works were removed from the general public. The sculpture "Wanderer in the Wind" - which also dates from 1934 - is interpreted today as the work with which he finally took a stand against the regime. His "Pensive Man" also represents an agonising process: a young man who can see the effort of thinking because he is being asked to make a momentous decision.

Sculpture "The Pensive Man II":

Fingertips placed against the cheek and deeply absorbed in thought: Barlach's "Pensive Man" shows thinking as highly concentrated work. Cast by hand using the Lost-Wax-Process and patinated. Cast directly from the original and reduced in size (reduction). Limited edition of 980 copies, individually numbered and with the signature "E. Barlach" taken from the original as well as the foundry hallmark. ars mundi Exclusive Edition, published in cooperation with the Ernst Barlach Society. With numbered certificate of authenticity and limitation. Size 8 x 34.5 x 5.5 cm (w/h/d). Weight 2.5 kg.

"For me, 'The Pensive Man' embodies the silence of great wisdom in its posture. The slightly bulging round form of the body is only increased by the four long folds. The left hand, resting on the chin, appears as an actively raised gesture of contemplation and introspection, while the right hand is rather inactively withdrawn into the cloak. Fragile and sensitive, 'The Pensive Man' appears as the contemplative existence par excellence. He seems to be a person who is dependent on external, perhaps higher, help. He does not judge but rather bears witness solely to his existence. Spirituality and religious aura permeate the entire appearance." (Dr. Jürgen Doppelstein, Ernst Barlach Society)

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