



Ernst Barlach: Sculpture "Kissing Group I" (1921), bronze

€1,880.00

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The Mysticism of Love: Ernst Barlach's "Kissing Group I". ars mundi Exclusive Edition, published in cooperation with the Kunsthalle Bremen.

The works of Ernst Barlach (1870-1938) are characterised by deep humanity. His depictions of simple people avoid the idealisation of the exterior and at the same time insist on a human ideal that is diametrically opposed to the historical course of the artist's life. His praying, music-making, searching figures appear as if they are infused with a spiritual force that makes them part of an overarching, mystical whole.

That is also the case with Barlach's Kiss, which was certainly created in 1921 in confrontation with Auguste Rodin's work of the same name. Unlike Rodin's work, the sculptural group does not emphasise the element of Eros but rather depicts the lovers with an affection that goes far beyond that. The intimacy between them seems to be characterised by a long shared experience of life and unbreakable trust. In its monolithic structure, the work already shows a "unity" of the couple, which reveals love not as a fleeting erotic phenomenon but as an almost mystical basic human experience - not Venus and Adonis, but Philemon and Baucis were the inspiration.

Sculpture "Kissing Group I": Original: Lacquered plaster.

Sculpture in fine bronze, cast using the Lost-Wax-Process, chiselled, polished and patinated by hand. Directly cast from the original. Limited edition of 980 copies, individually numbered and with the signature "E. Barlach" taken from the original as well as the foundry hallmark. Published in cooperation with the Kunsthalle Bremen. With numbered certificate of authenticity and limitation. Size 19,5 x 19 x 10 cm (h/w/d). Weight 3,2 kg. ars mundi Exclusive Edition.

"Some of the most famous works of modern art are dedicated to kisses - Gustav Klimt's and Auguste Rodin's depictions are the most prominent examples. Ernst Barlach also devoted himself to this theme. At the centre of his work are the human being and the entire range of his emotions. The Bremen Kissing Group presents an unusually intimate view of a couple showing affection, which is enhanced by the size and medium." (Prof. Dr Christoph Grunenberg, Director of the Kunsthalle Bremen)

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