



**Ernst Barlach:
Sculpture "Freezing Girl" (1916), reduction in bronze**

€1,680.00

Product no.: IN-945284

"The sculpture by Ernst Barlach marks the beginning of a decisive change in his work, which the artist continuously refined and maintained until his death in 1938. Additionally, it is a significant historical document of the decline of the prevailing systems.

After a short service as a soldier in 1915/16, Barlach was traumatised and began to seek religious orientation. Themes of war and battle revolved and fermented in his consciousness. His expressive figures, however, became increasingly closed in appearance. All ornamentation and decoration were stripped away. The sculptural accents were limited to the essential. The partly lively lines of the garment, as seen in the 'Stroller' from 1912, served to express an inner feeling, even in the portrayal of faces and hands. The sculpture became a vehicle for consciousness, convincing power, and strength.

The 'Freezing Girl' is an outstanding example of the new compelling style. The figure grows out of the almost square plinth, motionless, like a column, in sculptural rhythms. Under the heavy fabric of the warming cloak, the hands hold the face by the cheeks, cradling it like a jewel.

The face mask shows the mouth, nose, eyes and eyebrows, but appears closed, listening inwards. It seems as if, behind closed eyes, she can hear the tremors in the machinery of human existence on Earth. This shock makes her freeze. Her heart grows cold when she thinks of the millions of people devoured and yet to be devoured by war and revolution. Against the sub-zero temperatures, you can potentially fight with heating, movement, and warm clothing if you have it. But it is difficult to find a remedy against the cold heart that freezes due to war, loneliness, and ignorance.

The girl's posture in Barlach's work reflects pause, contemplation, and introspection, and the artist is entirely with the people, with their joys but also with their pain and fear. In his artistic work, Barlach fulfils his humanitarian mission by providing strength and solace through the tangible density and presence of his creations. His entire oeuvre is characterised by clarity and encouragement. Each work offers the decisive moment of reflection and self-awareness." (Dr Friedhelm Häring, former museum director and curator)

Fine bronze sculpture, cast using the Lost-Wax-Process, chiselled, polished and patinated by hand. Moulded from the original and reduced in size (reduction). Limited edition of 980 copies, numbered and with the signature "E. Barlach" taken from the original as well as the foundry and ars mundi hallmark. With numbered certificate of authenticity and limitation. Size approx. 32.5 x 9 x 8 cm(h/w/d). Weight approx. 3.1 kg. ars mundi Exclusive Edition.

Product link: <https://www.arsmundi.de/en/ernst-barlach-sculpture-freezing-girl-1916-reduction-in-bronze-945284/>