

Ernst Fuchs & Joseph F. Askew: Sculpture "Tree of Life", marble cast version painted gold

€1,100.00

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The "Tree of Life" by Fuchs and Askew

It was a request to Ernst Fuchs that initiated the creation of the "Tree of Life". The purpose of the sculpture was originally to serve as an award for people worldwide who had rendered outstanding services to the preservation of forest areas. When Fuchs finally had created the first drafts, the client withdrew his order. Fuchs decided to complete the artwork anyway and asked Askew for support with the realisation. Because of the many shared ideas that flowed into the sculpture during its execution, the final product was considered a joint work of both artists.

The "Tree of Life" combines ecological ideas with the mythological-fantastic motifs that are so typical of both artists. The archetypal symbol of fertility and fullness of life already appeared in ancient Oriental art and can be found throughout the art history of antiquity. Even in Indian art, it is a frequently appearing motif. As a symbol celebrating life (and in the Christian interpretation since the Middle Ages also: the resurrection), it has fascinated artists of all times - also of the modern age, think of Klimt's famous realisation in the Stoclet Frieze.

Fuchs and Askew remain figuratively concrete in their Tree of Life: a female torso grows out of the trunk as a symbol of the maternal, life-giving, and is surrounded all over by rich foliage.

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