



Ernst Barlach: Sculpture "Head of the Güstrow Memorial", reduction in bronze

€1,980.00

Product no.: IN-775245

Memorial and expression of friendship: "The Floating"

One of Ernst Barlach's most famous works, "The Floating", was created as a war monument for the victims of the First World War and hung from 1927-1937 in a niche of Güstrow Cathedral. However, it is also a memorial to friendship in two ways: as a complete sculpture (Catalogue raisonné 425) and as a detailed cast "Head of the Güstrow Memorial" (Catalogue raisonné 426).

The fact that the complete sculpture still exists is thanks to Barlach's friends. Shortly after the artist died in 1938, they had another cast made based on the existing model and hid it after the original "The Floating" was classified as "degenerate" by the Nazi authorities in 1937 and removed from the cathedral and finally even melted down. Today it hangs in the church Antoniterkirche in Cologne and can be used to make other castings for its original location. That is how Barlach's masterpiece returned to the Güstrow Cathedral in 1953 and has been there ever since. The dates engraved in stone serve as a reminder of the victims of the world wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-45.

The "Head of the Güstrow Memorial", Barlach's detailed casting from 1930, is also a document of an immediate artist friendship. The facial features are clearly those of his artist friend Käthe Kollwitz, although "without intention", as he later maintains. Her work was also ostracised in National Socialist Germany, and in 1936, they were removed from the Berlin Academy Exhibition. From then on, she was practically no longer present as an artist. Thus, in retrospect, the "Head of the Güstrow Memorial" seems like a foreshadowing of a community of fate: it is the portrait of an artist whom Barlach admired with friendship and who, like himself, soon faced hard times.

The special features of this edition:

Made of fine bronze, cast by hand using the Lost-Wax-Process. Directly moulded from the original and reduced in size. Limited to 980 copies, individually numbered, with foundry hallmark. ars mundi Exclusive Edition, published in cooperation with the Ernst Barlach Society. With numbered certificate of authenticity and limitation.

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Version on a stone pedestal. Detail casting of the "Schwebende" (WVZ 244, 1927), first executed in 1930 (WVZ 426). Mounted on a stone pedestal. Size with pedestal 22.5 x 28 x 19 cm (w/h/d), weight 5.75 kg.

Product link: <https://www.arsmundi.de/en/ernst-barlach-sculpture-head-of-the-guestrow-memorial-reduction-in-bronze-775245/>