



## **Ernst Barlach: Sculpture "Reading Monastery Student" (1930), reduction in bronze**

**€1,880.00**

**Product no.: IN-929187**

"Ernst Barlach executed a quarter of his sculptural work with wood. In 1909 he said: 'Gothic wood sculptures are just revelations for me'. In 1930, Barlach carved his almost life-size 'Monastery Student Reading', 114.8 cm high, from oak wood. The figure, which today belongs to the St. Gertrude's Chapel in Güstrow, is part of a series of works featuring reading monks.

The majestic block of this figure can now also be admired as an ars mundi Exclusive Edition in a small bronze sculpture.

From his trip to Russia in particular, Barlach brought back two basic impressions that are essential to all of his work. The first is the human being, who is fatefully connected to the earth and thus can be considered as a plant of the earth. And then there is the wandering, searching human being, the one who is introverted and listens. With his sculpture, Barlach depicts this transformation from the heaviness of the earth into the spiritual.

It is the possible transformation of every human being, the basic tenor of his impressive work 'Monastery Student Reading'. Here, a young man who receives the best possible training in a monastery school sits with his eyes almost closed because he can only find the answers on the path to the search for meaning within himself. The word he has read has not passed him by. It has drawn itself to him, has entered his body and face as the very meaning of his existence, as that which is solid, that which is unbreakable. The reading monastery student has understood the word of truth in a world-second, the question that will possibly determine his whole life: "Who are you?" (Dr Friedhelm Häring, retired museum director and curator)

Fine bronze sculpture, cast using the Lost-Wax-Process and chiselled, polished and patinated by hand. Cast 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. With numbered certificate of authenticity and limitation. Size 24 x 15,5 x 9 cm (h/w/d). Weight approx. 4 kg. ars mundi Exclusive Edition.

---

**Product link:** <https://www.arsmundi.de/en/ernst-barlach-sculpture-reading-monastery-student-1930-reduction-in-bronze-929187/>