



Wolfgang Hugo Rheinhold: Sculpture "Monkey with Skull" (1892-93), bronze version

€1,680.00

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The philosopher and sculptor Wolfgang Hugo Rheinhold (1853-1900) cast the debate about Charles Darwin's work in an almost iconographic form with his sculpture "Monkey with Skull". His contemporaries already attested that his diverse allusions were a "cabinet piece of superior humour" - after all, not only Shakespeare's "To be or not to be", but also Rodin's "Thinker" and circulating Darwin caricatures shine through.

However, Rheinhold's monkey is far more than humour in cast bronze from our ancestor's time. After all, the monkey wielding a tool for measuring skulls is not only sitting on Darwin's groundbreaking work but also the Bible. And on closer inspection, the "Inscriptio", the inscription, turns out to be the key to the allegory: "Eritis sicut deus", which translates to "You will be like God". With these words, the devil lures Adam and Eve to the tree of knowledge, which, as we know, leads to their expulsion from paradise. Thus, in the end, the sculptor Rheinhold proves himself to be a philosopher again: The "Monkey with a Skull" tells us that those who seek knowledge have to reckon with consequences. This is one of, if not "the" basic experiences of the 20th century, from the atomic bomb to genetic engineering.

Sculpture in fine bronze, cast using the Lost-Wax-Process, partially patinated by hand, polished and gilded. On a black diabase pedestal. Size 17 x 26 x 17 cm (w/h/d), weight approx. 5 kg. Limited to 980 copies, numbered. With certificate.

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