



Ernst Barlach: Sculpture "The Book Reader" (1936), reduction in bronze, height 41 cm

€6,800.00

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Ernst Barlach's Book Reader - a Milestone of Modernism

The motif of the reader is an essential motif in Barlach's work, which he already addressed in the lithograph from 1916, "To whom time is like eternity and eternity is like time, he is freed from all suffering" and in charcoal drawing from 1922. In the spring of 1936, he gave the motif a special density with the sculpture "The Book Reader".

"The Book Reader" is completely absorbed in his reading, radiating concentration and meditative harmony. He lives in his world: "His back, resembling a spherical shell, protects him like a shield from anything distracting, guards the intimacy and solitude of the reader - the prerequisites of all intellectual endeavour".

Bertolt Brecht described Ernst Barlach's masterly depiction of the reading man with enthusiasm: "A seated man, bent over, holding a book in heavy hands. He reads curiously, confidently, and critically. He is looking for solutions to urgent problems in the book [...] I like "The Book Reader" better than Rodin's famous "Thinker", which only shows the difficulty of thinking. Barlach's sculpture is more realistic, more concrete..."

"The Book Reader" is one of Ernst Barlach's best-known and most important works. Original castings in bronze can be found in the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, the Staatliches Museum Schwerin and the Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf, among others.

The 150th birthday of the artist in 2020 was a special occasion for us to publish an anniversary edition of the "Book Reader" in this impressive size, in an exclusive limited edition of 150 copies.

Sculpture in fine bronze, cast using the Lost-Wax-Process, chiselled by hand, polished and patinated. Taken directly from the original and reduced in size. Limited edition of 150 copies, numbered and with the signature "E. Barlach" taken from the original as well as the foundry and ars mundi hallmark. With numbered a certificate of authenticity and limitation. Size approx. 41 x 19 x 29 cm (h/w/d).

THE WORLD OF ART

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Weight approx. 14.4 kg. ars mundi Exclusive Edition.

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