

SA1046481

19th century animalier bronze
of a sitting rabbit by
Pierre-Jules Mêne (1810-1879)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1046481

Date of manufacture: 1850

Dimensions

Height = 8 cm (3.1")

Width = 9 cm (3.5")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

A finely detailed smaller bronze c.1850, with a warm mid-brown patina. This figure was also produced as part of a larger bronze group of two rabbits. Mêne was one of the most successful and prolific animalier sculptors of his day. He was born in Paris in 1810 in Rue de Faubourg St. Antoine. His father, Doninique, was a skilled metal turner who taught his son not only the basics of metal foundry and the work of a 'ciseleur', but also the principles of sculpture. He developed his natural talents as an animal sculptor under sculptor René Compaire making detailed sketches of the animals in the zoo at the Jadin des Plantes which he used as his models. He cast his own sculptures and quickly made a reputation for himself. In 1838 he exhibited a group of a 'Dog and Fox' at the French Salon in bronze and established his own foundry in the same year, exhibiting one or more models almost every year until his death, with entries accepted on his behalf after his death until 1879. In recognition of his work he received the first class medal at the Salon twice and was awarded the Legion of Honour in 1861. In England where his work was also popular, he exhibited at the Great Exhibiti...

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