



Arthur Strasser

1854-1927

The Smoker of Sebsi

Bronze with brown patina / signed on the basis

Dimensions : 62 x 37 cm

Dimensions : 24.41 x 14.57 inch

Biography

Arthur Strasser was an Austrian sculptor and painter, who first studied at the Vienna's Academy of Fine Art, beside Viktor Tilgner from 1871 to 1875. During his apprenticeship, he developed a special interest into sculpture and art. He was a talented student in the both disciplines and obtained a grant which allowed him to continue his learning in Paris from 1881 to 1883.

When he returned to Vienna in 1883, he is a part of many art shows, exhibiting naturalistic sculptures that staged persons from working or farmer work. His work was very appreciated and Arthur Strasser quickly gained celebrity. He was awarded with many prestigious prizes, of which the Emperor Prize in 1893 and the 1896's Great States gold medal.

Friend of Charles Wilda whose he admired the orientalist art works, Arthur Strasser decided to learn paintings by his side. The Egyptian subjects realised by Wilda fascinated him, and in 1892 they left together to Egypt. The journey proved to be a formidable inspiration, as well as for his graphic art than for his sculptures.

The artist employed more and more orientalist motifs in his sculptures. He came to like making Egyptian people in their daily tasks, like water carriers wearing their traditional costumes. He created many little size orientalist sculptures, that were obtained a great success when he returned from Egypt. Then he gained great reputation near the Vienna's buyers, as well as near the Austrian Imperial Family who bought some of his art works to decorate the Hermès Villa in Vienna.

In 1899, Arthur Strasser is designated to be the sculpture professor at the Vienna's Fine Art School. His ideas about naturalistic sculpture were a real advantage to give back a new impetus to this subject. He stayed as a sculpture's teacher until 1919.

During this time, the artist went on sculpt, and that is how he realised the large bronze sculpture of Marc Antoine for the 1900's Universal Exhibition.

Museums

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Vienne
Brooklyn Museum, New-York

Bibliography

Ulrich Thieme, Felix Becker u. a., "Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart", Band 32, E. A. Seemann, Leipzig, 1938
Nicole Raichle, "Das Werk des Wiener Malers und Bildhauers Arthus Strasser 1854 - 1927", Magisterarbeit Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg, 1989