

## Rembrandt BUGATTI (1884-1916)

### ***DEUX GRANDS LÉOPARDS***(c. 1913-1914)

Bronze, richly shaded black brown patina

*H : 32,5 cm, L : 108,7 cm, D : 16,7 cm*

Original edition signed "R.Bugatti", cast by Albino Palazzolo for "A.A Hébrard cire perdue, Paris" (seal), second example inscribed "(2)"

**Cast in 1918**

*Edition details :*

*From an identified edition at 8 examples (circa 1914-1934).*



Rembrandt Bugatti was born in Milan on October 16, 1884. He was the son of the interior and furniture designer Carlo Bugatti, and the brother of Ettore Bugatti, the famous car manufacturer. He began modelling at the age of 17 under the influence of the sculptor Troubetzkoy, one of the first Impressionist sculptors, and Segantini, leader of the Lombard Divisionists. His move to Paris in 1903 and his association with the founder and gallery owner Hébrard, who had just created the new lost-wax casting technique, marked the start of a dazzling career. His mode of creation was spontaneous and quick, a freehand vision, almost immediate, of animal truth in the Impressionist style of his mentor, then in the Cubist and Art Déco movement. But it is undoubtedly his drawing, his line, the way his works are cut out in space that is the mark of his genius. After the war, zoo animals were killed, sculpture sales collapsed and the Hébrard Gallery closed. Refusing to accept his brother's help, he committed suicide in his studio at the age of 32.

Request for Rembrandt Bugatti's beasts is high – especially for the largest models – and, following the unique group *Les trois panthères se suivant* (1905) sold in early June by Bonhams in Paris, our Gallery is delighted to be able to exhibit the second example of *Deux grands léopards* (circa 1913-1914).



*Deux panthères marchant*, bronze, L. 101 cm , sold at Rouillac on June 16, 2019.

This model is typical of Bugatti's way of depicting couples in a peaceful attitude, insisting on fluidity of line and delicacy of modelling: the first Leopard's barely raised its left foreleg – a hesitation to walk ? – and the tail of the second, extending the scene to the rear, are the signatures of his work. The group belongs to the sculptor's so-called cubist period, when volumes become as if mathematized; and finally, of the patinas known for this model, the naturalistic red-brown color is the most suited to the subject and also the one most sought-after by collectors.

In Rembrandt Bugatti's 326-issues in the catalogue raisonné, the *Deux grands léopards* are one of the most imposing groups of beasts in this collection, after Bonhams' *Les trois panthères marchant* (cf. ill.: €3.67 million) and before the *Deux panthères* from Rouillac (cf. ill.: €1.36 million).

There are five similar groups, three from the Impressionist period (*Lion et lionne couchée*, *Couple de panthères marchant*, *Deux panthères se léchant*) and two from the Cubist period, *Ours* and *Lion et Lionne de Nubie* (1909-1910).

The edition is identified at 8 examples, all cast between 1915 and 1934, ours is the second, cast in 1918.



*Trois panthères marchant*, bronze, unique piece, L. 150 cm , sold at Bonhams Paris on June 5, 2024.



*Lion et lionne de Nubie* (1910).







