

JAMES PRADIER

LES TROIS GRÂCES (1825-1831)

Bronze, richly dark red brown patina.

H : 38,3 cm, L : 25 cm, D : 11,2 cm

Lifetime cast signed in cursive writing on the front of the base "J.Pradier", old edition with the "Cresson Éditeur." mark - only few examples identified.

Before 1856



The Three Graces is an unmissable representation for neoclassical artists, as they represent Art and

Beauty themselves, following the wonderful painting by Raffaello and during a more recent period by Canova. Pradier executed a large marble of the model in 1831, now at the Louvre Museum (inv. MV7723). Several drawings at the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire of Geneva (inv. 1852-35) show the sculptor had hesitations regarding the gesture of the arms and the use of drapery. The sculptor chose finally to represent the deities with very few symbols, a garland of flowers, a jewel box at their feet with a necklace and an altar. This last element disappears for the bronze reduction of the subject, concentrating the attention on the flowers and the pearls of the necklace.

A second version of the model is identified with a different gesture of arms, an altar but no garland of flowers

Our example, with a remarkable patina and chiselling, bears a cursive signature and was cast by Cresson.