REMBRANDT BUGATTI

PETIT JAGUAR MARCHANT (c. 1911)

Bronze, richly dark black brown patina

H : 17,4 cm, L : 36,8 cm, D : 9,8 cm

Example from the original edition signed «R.Bugatti», old cast and edition by «A.A Hébrard cire perdue» (seal), numbered «(8)» from an edition at 10.

Cast between 1919 and 1922

Provenance:

Mr. Manuel [n°INV.3226];

Acquired directly from the descendants of Mr. Manuel by the Gallery

UDB, Paris in the 1990's

Private collection, Paris

Back to UDB Gallery (2026).



The years following the Jaguar accroupi were very creative for the sculptor, who organised his first major exhibition in Antwerp in 1910, featuring twenty-three new plaster models and six new bronze groups, each of which was a unique piece. In May 1911, Bugatti exhibited a collection of one hundred sculptures at the Galerie A.A. Hébrard, 8 rue Royale in Paris. That year, he created four new models of wild animals: the Grand Léopard au repos, le Léopard marchant, le Puma

måle and the Petit jaguar marchant, from which our exmaple is numbered "(8)" from a limited edition of only ten bronzes, sold between 1912 and 1922.

In his model of the Petit jaguar marchant Bugatti brings to life a very balanced sculpture in which the curve of the jaguar's head responds to the counter-curve of the beast's moving tail. The artist perfectly respects the jaguar's tail, which is often shortened as a result of its impulsive and combative nature. As usual, the sculptor places the animal's hind leg at the furthest point of the terrace and, by reinforcing the thickness of the front legs, accentuates the effect of the feline's power as it strides forward. He perfectly manages the force expressed and naturalises the movement of the tail, which gives the animal an almost disturbing tranquillity, when one is aware of this animal's extraordinary capabilities.