

XAVIER EECKHOUT



Marcel LEMAR (Paris 1892 - Paris 1941)

“ Vautour Condor ”

Bronze

signed 'LEMAR' and numbered, on the side

Stamped by the foundry C. Valsuani, cire perdue, on the back side

Edition limited to 3, according to the current state of our knowledge

Model conceived before 1929, this one cast circa 1930-1935

H. 24,5 ; L. 8,5 ; P. 7 cm.

Related Works :

- Our plaster model in A. Dayot, *Les animaux vus par les meilleurs animaliers : plumes*, Charles Moreau ed., 1929, vol. 3, pl. 15, repr.
- Our bronze model, probably number 1, exhibited at the *Exposition des Artistes Animaliers*, Galerie E. Brandt, December 1930, n. 60, repr.

- Art. " Les Sculpteurs animaliers à la galerie Edgar Brandt ", in *Mobilier et Décoration*, December 1930, p. 258, repr (bronze, probably n. 1)
- Our bronze model, numbered 1, kept in the Musée La Piscine, Roubaix (France), bequest by the artist in 1941, and reproduced in the exhibition catalogue *Les Lémar de La Piscine*, SilvanaEditoriale ed., Milan, 2013, p. 108, n. 115

Artist description:

"Lémar doesn't like beasts, he is crazy about them, and if I didn't know his excellent heart, full of naïveté and depth - I would venture to say that he preferred them to men. " (1)

Parallel to his activity of postman, Marcel Lémar, who was still only Léon-Marcel Marceau, was studying anatomy at the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, and went daily to the Jardin des Plantes, where he met Pompon; both men forged a deep friendship. In 1920, his name appeared in the booklets of the Salon des Indépendants, Lémar was then drawing animals in cages and it was probably Pompon who encouraged him to model them. In 1925, he abandoned painting to devote himself to sculpture. He exhibited regularly at various salons—le Salon des indépendants, Le Salon d'Automne, Le Salon de la Nationale et le Salon des Artistes Animaliers and enjoyed great fame.

Lémar was a member of the Group of Twelve - or Twelve French animalier sculptors - an association of animal artists founded in 1931 by Pompon and Jeanne Poupelet, and whose members were Artus, Baugnies of Saint-Marceau, Chopard, Guyot, Hilbert, Adrienne Jouclard, Jouve, Margat and Anne-Marie Profillet. Thus, the animalier artists formed a large family, they gathered, organized exhibitions and constituted an avant-garde, and advocated a new aesthetic based on the animal subject and the simplification of the form. This artistic circle thus constituted a creative emulation conducive to the recognition of the public, of the critics and of political powers.

The Musée National d'Art Moderne of Paris has a large collection of his sculpted works and drawings.

(1) Jean-Daniel Maublanc, « Lémar, sculpteur animalier », *Mediterranea*, septembre 1930