

# RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



## **Wisent**

Circa: 1913

47 x 59 cm

18.503937007874 x 18.503937007874"

1913

Patinated Bronze

47 x 59 cm (18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches)

Signed and dated Th. Georgii 1913

Foundry signature: C. Leyrer Munich

Bronze with dark brown patina

on a rectangular, reddish-veined marble base

Theodor Georgii was a German sculptor. He came from a Swabian family. From 1902 to 1903, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart under Robert Poetzberger, in 1904 at the Dillens Art School in Brussels, and in 1905 at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich under Adolf von Hildebrand, whose daughter Irene he married in 1907. Of Hildebrand's later students, Georgii developed a special

mastery of stone sculpture, in keeping with Hildebrand's original demands. Georgii also traveled via Paris and Belgium to join the Hildebrand art circle and began free-carving works from stone, which Hildebrand received with great approval. He was a member of the Secession in Munich. In 1930, Georgii received an appointment at the Vienna School of Applied Arts. In 1946, he returned to Munich and taught at the Academy of Fine Arts, becoming an honorary member in 1953. Georgii initially became known for his animal sculptures, many of which were used to decorate parks. Although their value is unequal when measured by an absolute standard, one thing is evident in all of them without distinction: a true understanding of the world and atmosphere of animals and of the poetry that prevails there. Three works in this field stand out from the others in their quality. They are: the large "Deer" (1907), the "Wisent" (1913), and the "Little Bull" (1924). In these works, he succeeds in fully conveying the poetry of these animals with great precision and in the unique language of sculpture.

### **Literature:**

Catalogue XIV Venice Biennale 1924, "Toro Bavarese"

Hubert Klee, Theodor Georgii, Bruckmann Verlag, Munich 1930, p. 15, described with fig. 7

Sigrid Esche-Braunfels/Vincent Mayr, The Wittelsbach Fountain in Munich: The Restoration of the Stone Thrower after the Second World War by Theodor Georgii, in *Schönere Heimat*, issue 3/2003