

RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



Bear

31 x 17 cm
1' 0¹/₄" x 0' 6³/₄"

20th Century

Bronze with brown patina

31 x 17 cm (12 ¹/₄ x 6 ³/₄ inches)

Germany

Aavid Knöppel was the son of brewery owner and author Aavid Knöppel and his first wife Maria Cecilia Elsbeth Schultz. While growing up in Växjö, Aavid Knöppel spent a lot of time with his father in the woods and countryside. His father, who was interested in hunting, also knew Bruno Liljefors, an artist whom he greatly admired. In the 1920s, he taught at Althin's painting school, at the technical school, at the art academy in Stockholm and then in Munich, Italy and Switzerland. He studied sculpture under the sculptor Carl Fagerberg. Aavid Knöppel's motifs were mainly animals. From 1944 until his death in 1970, he lived on his farm Knöppelåsen in Sälboda near Arvika in Värmland, where he had a reserve for Nordic wildlife. He is known for his animal sculptures and drawings. As an animalist, he was a realist and impressionist and rarely stylised his works. Aavid Knöppel carried out decorations in several churches, in the northern crematorium in Stockholm, as well as in the crematoriums in Karlstad, Borås and others, and in the Hägerstensåsens school and several public buildings. He painted portraits and figurative compositions and produced drawings and sculptures of animals, bears, visons, lynxes and badgers. He created portrait busts of the artists Gustaf Magnusson, Gunnar Torhamn and Gerhard Wihlborg. In his later years, he also worked in stainless steel.