

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Franz Xavier Bergman

'The Slave Seller' - A Cold Painted Orientalist Bronze Group

Circa: Austrian, Circa 1900

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14 x 9 x 8 cm (5 1/4 x 3 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches)

Cold Painted Bronze

Stamped 'Nam Greb' to the base and stamped "B" in the middle of an inverted vase for Bergman

'The Slave Seller' - A Cold Painted Orientalist Bronze Group by Franz Bergman, depicting a Nubian slave seller revealing a crouching slave.

Stamped 'Nam Greb' to the base and stamped "B" in the middle of an inverted vase for Bergman.

This exotic bronze is stamped to the base 'Nam Greb' a pseudonym Bergman used (Bergman spelt backwards), to conceal his identity and avoid controversy.

Austrian, Circa 1900.

Artist description:

Franz Xavier Bergman (1861-1936) was the son of Franz Bergman (1830-1894) a Bohemian metalworker who established a foundry in Vienna in 1860. After his father's death, Franz Xavier continued the business registering the well-known trademark stamp of the inverted vase with the "B" in the middle.

Although there were many bronze foundries operating in Vienna in this period, it was Bergman's which has become the most celebrated, especially for his cold painted bronzes. The bronzes were painted with special enamel colours, often applied to the bronze casting whilst still warm, allowing for natural

shrinkage on cooling and adding to the permanency of the colour.

Bergman worked with several celebrated sculptors in Vienna at the turn of the 20th Century, such as Bruno Zach, to produce designs for his bronzes.

His figures are often whimsical and satirical normally falling into one of three groups: Orientalist Sculptures, Animal Figures and Erotic Figures. Many of the erotic works were signed with the pseudonym 'Nam Greb' (Bergman spelt backwards), to conceal his identity and avoid controversy.

Literature

Zobel, J., *Antique Vienna Bronzes*, Atglen, Pennsylvania: Schiffer Publishing 2008; p. 233
Berman, Harold, *Bronze Sculptures & Founders*, p. 942.