

19TH CENTURY FRENCH PATINATED SPELTER HORSE AND FOAL SCULPTURE AFTER P.J. MÊNE

$1,425

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Categories: Bronzes, Brass, Spelter & Silver

Add a touch of French equestrian artistry to an office, library, or study with this finely detailed antique horse and foal sculpture. Crafted in France circa 1870, the composition is executed in spelter with a rich bronze patinated finish, in the manner of celebrated French animalier sculptor Pierre-Jules Mêne.

The charming pastoral scene depicts a powerful adult horse walking gracefully alongside a young foal, both captured in a naturalistic pose that conveys movement and the gentle bond between the animals. The adult horse features a beautifully modeled muscular body, finely textured mane, flowing tail, and expressive facial features, while the playful foal walks closely beside its parent with youthful energy. Both figures stand on an elongated oval base depicting rocky terrain, scattered foliage, and a fallen tree branch, adding depth and realism to the composition.

The sculpture showcases the refined anatomical detailing and lifelike movement characteristic of 19th-century French animalier art. An indistinct signature appears on the front of the base, although the artist's identity remains unconfirmed. The composition is attributed stylistically to the work of Pierre-Jules Mêne.

Pierre-Jules Mêne (1810–1879) was a prominent French sculptor and one of the leading figures of the animalier movement. Renowned for his realistic portrayals of horses, dogs, and other animals, Mêne became celebrated for capturing their anatomy, movement, and individual character with remarkable precision.

The antique equestrian sculpture is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, retaining a rich, dark bronze patina that enhances its sculptural details. A wonderful addition to an equestrian collection or a traditional interior.

Dimensions: 15" W x 6.5" D x 10.5" H.

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