



EARLY 20TH CENTURY FRENCH BRONZE BULL SCULPTURE AFTER ISIDORE BONHEUR

\$2,400

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This antique bull sculpture was created in France, circa 1920. Set on a conforming oval base, the patinated bronze features a standing bovine in the manner of Isidore Bonheur. The bull sculpture is in excellent condition and adorns a rich patinated finish. Isidore Jules Bonheur (1827-1901), was an important 19th Century French animalier sculptor. Born in Bordeaux, France in 1827, he was the brother of Rosa Bonheur, and brother-in-law to Hippolyte Peyrol the founder; a well known family of painters, sculptors and artists. Isidore studied painting under the tutelage of his father at a very early age. He moved on to sculpture in 1848 with his first Salon entry of a plaster study of An African Horseman attacked by a lion. Isidore Bonheur continued exhibiting his sculpture throughout the years, both at the Salon in Paris as well as the Royal Academy in London. He won medals at the Salon in 1865 and 1869, and won the Gold Medal at the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1889. Bonheur was awarded the "Legion of Honneur" in 1895. He died in Paris in 1901. Bonheur's bronzes range from domestic cattle and sheep, which he excelled at, to wild bears and lions as well as equestrian and hunting groups, all done in a very natural and realistic manner. His "Le Grand Jockey" is one of his finest models and is one of the icons of Animalier sculpture. Many of his bronzes were done as compliments to his sisters' works. These sheep and cattle models by brother and sister were done as pairs. Almost all of his and his sisters' casts were produced by Hippolyte Peyrol whose extremely small (less than 1/6") foundry mark is often very difficult to locate. Measures: 14.5" W x 5.5" D x 11" H.