



## MID-CENTURY FRENCH PAINTED BARBOTINE RAINBOW TROUT VESSEL FROM FIVES-LILLE

\$575

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**SKU:** 251-132

**Stock:** N/A

**Categories:** [Barbotine & Majolica](#)

This lively barbotine rainbow trout vessel fish was sculpted in Fives-Lille, France circa 1950 and exemplifies the naturalistic style of early 20th-century majolica. Shaped as a lifelike trout lying flat with fins extended, the ceramic container features a dramatic open dorsal fin and a hollowed back, allowing it to function as a small bowl, vide-poche, or decorative centerpiece. Hand-painted in a rich, earthy palette of deep green, brown, and soft pink with realistic detailing and wide yellow eyes, the piece reflects the painterly craftsmanship characteristic of French majolica. Measuring 9 inches wide by 3 inches deep and 3.25 inches high, it offers a charming mix of whimsy and artistry. Whether placed on a desk, shelf, or console, this rustic figural piece brings a touch of nature and Old World flair to any setting. Excellent condition with minor craquelure consistent with age. The story of the majolica of Fives-Lille begins with Antione Gustave De Bruyn, a fourth generation potter from Belgium. In 1864 he left Belgium and moved to Fives-Lille, a community in the northern part of France to make his fortune in the French pottery trade. He began by building his own factory for the production of clay pipes and whistles. Soon the business was expanded to include earthenware and stoneware for daily use. Art pottery and the newly popular majolica were incorporated into the company's catalog in 1887. Soon majolica became the body of choice for the production of humidors, jardinières, vases and umbrella stands. The company's silver medal at the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1889, was a testament to its success. Similar piece in the book "Les Barbotines" by Pierre Faverson page 77 (see pictures).