

MONUMENTAL GILDED BRONZE ART NOUVEAU LAMP

‘LA LIBELLULE ’

or

‘DRAGONFLY’

By Raoul-Francois Larche

Circa 1900

This is a gilt bronze lamp, with four foliate light shades surmounted by a nymph with dragonfly wings.

Height : 68.5 cms

Signatures : Inscribed ‘RAOUL LARCHE’ and ‘Siot Paris’.

Reference : (i) Wolf Uecker, Art Nouveau and Art Deco Lamps and Candlesticks, Thames & Hudson, 1986, pg 77.
(ii) Alistair Duncan, Art Nouveau and Art Deco Lighting, Thames & Hudson, 1978, pictured pg 34 frame XII.



Raoul Larche studied under Alexandre Falguiere and Eugene Delaplanche at the School of Fine Arts in Paris. He was an accomplished sculptor in bronze, and also designed biscuit porcelain figurines for Sevres.

Larche designed some of the most desirable Art Nouveau lamps and sculptures, amongst the best known are three versions of the dancer 'Lois Fuller'. They are all important Art Nouveau lamps.

Lighting in the Art Nouveau period was done more for effect than for good lighting. This lamp is a perfect example of that. When the lamp is switched on, ***LA LIBELLULE*** catches the light, and the gilt figure hovers above the shadowed base, creating a beautiful lighting effect.

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