

‘STARFISH’

By Demetre Chiparus
Circa 1920

A magnificent bronze and ivory dancer wearing a cat-suit, her hands are crossed and held together above her head, standing on tiptoe, with her right foot just ahead of her left. Her costume is covered in *starfish* motifs. Her hands and face are ivory. The brown onyx base is inlaid with black portoro marble and green onyx squares across the lower section.

Height : 75.5 cms

Signatures : Engraved *DH Chiparus* and *Etling Paris* on the base

References : (i) Alberto Shayo, *Chiparus Master of Art Deco*, Second Edition, Abbeville Press Publishers, 1999, pg 152.
(ii) Bryan Catley, *Art Deco and Other Figures*, Chancery House Publishing Co. Ltd, 1978, pg. 83.



Starfish is probably the most recognisable of all Chiparus designs. It is often the example that is used to show typical Art Deco sculpture. It is one of the tallest of Chiparus's offerings, and has huge collector appeal. It is not the rarest, but because of its popularity, it always performs extremely well on the international market. It ranks in value with the likes of Thais, Almeria, Semiramis, Clara, and Kamorna. These sculptures all epitomise the theatrical styling of Art Deco.

The condition of this example is superb – the ivory is immaculate. It spent its life in one family. The piece is in a naturally good untouched condition. The onyx base is immaculate. The picture below shows the Belgian home from which the sculpture was sourced.

This model was made in two sizes, namely 75.5 cm and 39 cm in height. Needless to say, the large version is far more awe-inspiring than the smaller one.



BURR & MUIR

Cape Town 27-21-4181269
Partners : Geoff Burr & Graham Muir

