

Bronze & ivory figure 'SUNSHADE GIRL'

By Ferdinand Preiss
Circa 1920

A bronze and ivory figure of a female bather, wearing a one-piece bathing suit, holding a decorated parasol. She is wearing sandals with straps. Her limbs, neck and head, and the parasol are all carved out of ivory, and the parasol has a floral decoration painted on it. She is standing on a black onyx base.

Height : 23 cms high

Signatures : Engraved 'F Preiss' on the base

References

- i) Bryan Catley, *Art Deco and Other Figures*, Antique Collectors' Club, London, 1978, p. 272.
- ii) Victor Arwas, *Art Deco Sculpture*, London, 1992, p. 197.
- iii) Alberto Shayo, *Ferdinand Preiss, Art Deco Sculptor, The Fire and the Flame*, Antique Collectors' Club Ltd, 2005, pictured pg. 155.



Preiss is highly respected for his lifelike ivory carving, which surpasses the quality achieved by any other of his contemporary sculptors. This is because Preiss was apprenticed as an ivory carver from the age of 15, and as a result, his factory did all their own ivory carving, producing a very superior product.

He designed more than one figure in a swimsuit, others are : *Beach Dancer, Golfer in Bathing Suit, Diver, Bather on Rock.*

There were two models made as is shown in Catley : the one differs from the other in that it has plain shoes, shorter hair, and an undecorated parasol.

Prices on this piece fluctuate depending on condition. The model on offer is in superb condition.



BURR & MUIR

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