

BRONZE & IVORY **TANARA**

By Demetre Chiparus

Circa 1920

A seated figure with legs outstretched in front of her, tying the straps of her ballet shoes, wearing a gathered knee-length skirt, a tight long-sleeved bejewelled bodice, a cloche cap, and a wide heavily-beaded belt. Her hands and face are carved ivory, the rest of the figure is cold-painted bronze. The base is in black and gold Portoro marble.

Height : 40,5 cms (16 inches) high

Signatures : Engraved 'D H Chiparus' on the base

Reference : (i) Alberto Shayo, 'Chiparus, Master of Art Deco', New York, 1999, pg. 83.
(ii) Bryan Catley, 'Art Deco and other Figures, Chancery House, 1981, pg. 103.
(iii) Victor Arwas, 'Art Deco Sculpture', London, 1992, pg. 30.



‘Tanara’ was produced in three sizes, the largest size being 40,5 cm (16 in.) high, the middle size 25 cm (10 in.) high, and the smallest 19 cm (7.5 in.) high. The model on offer is the largest version. It is extremely imposing and heavy, the weight mostly in the large thick marble base. As the figure is seated, it is larger than in most of Chiparus’s designs.

The condition of this figure is superb, with no unsightly cracks in the ivory. The patination on the bronze is in extremely condition.

All major Chiparus figures are rare, and much sought after by collectors.



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