‘TENDER PROMISES’

By Demetre Chiparus

Circa 1920

A bronze and ivory group of a pierrot and pierrette, both wearing cloche caps and ruffled collars, the female figure with knee-length full-skirted dress with an ornate belt, the male figure with a decorated loose shirt, and tights with a diamond-shaped design. They both have ivory hands and faces. The pierrot appears to be whispering into the pierrette’s ear. The very stylised brown onyx base has diamond-shaped attachments in multi-coloured onyx.

Height	:	37 cm
Length	:	74 cm
Signatures	:	Engraved script ‘Chiparus’ on the top of the marble base, the number ‘21’ on the foot of the pierrot.
References	:	Alberto Shayo, Chiparus Master of Art Deco, Second Edition, Abbeville Press Publishers, 1999, pg. 86.

The model on offer is in superb condition, the ivory without any unsightly cracks. The patina is in surprisingly good condition too, considering the age of the piece. It was produced in two sized, this version being the larger size. The smaller version is 26 cm high and 50 cm long.

The prices of Chiparus sculptures have tightened because of the difficulty in importing and exporting ivory across the world. However, major works by Chiparus are getting harder and harder to find and acquire.

BURR & MUIR

Cape Town 27-21-4181269

Partners : Geoff Burr & Graham Muir