Public access description

The bronze Mask of a Dead Fawn was originally produced by the British artist Glyn Philpot (1884-1937) in about 1920, and this particular cast, one of a small number, was given by the artist as a wedding present to its former owners in 1928. Philpot is also known as a painter, and executed an important decorative mural scheme for Mulberry House in London. His sculpture is in the tradition of Rodin, although he also epitomises an angular art deco style, which compares well with work by some of his British contemporaries, such as Eric Gill and Robert Gibbings. This was the only sculptural work of Philpot which sold well during his lifetime.

Descriptive line

Mask, cast bronze, 'The Dead Faun', by Glyn Philpot, Great Britain, ca. 1923

Physical description

Cast bronze mask with dark green patina, fitted to a plain black slate socle. The subject is the face of a young male inclined slightly to the right, eyes closed and hair falling forward.

Dimensions

Height: 41.5 cm Including socle, Height: 17.5 cm socle, Width: 15 cm socle, Depth: 12.5 cm socle, Weight: 12 kg whole sculpture (with plinth)

Museum number

A.4-2008

Object history note

Purchased in 2008 for a total of £11,000 from Strachan Fine Art Ltd using a Departmental Purchase Grant and Central Funds.

Prior: It was given as a wedding present to the original owners in 1928. By family descent until sold at Christie’s, 21 March 1996. lot 42.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O170305/mask-of-a-dead-faun-mask-philpot-glyn-warren/