

THE SLADMORE GALLERY

57 JERMYN STREET, ST. JAMES'S, LONDON SW1Y 6LX

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Artist: Alberic Collin
(Belgian, 1886 - 1962)
Ref: 9567

American White Pelican, c. 1925

Description:

A rare, fine quality, early twentieth century bronze model of an 'American White Pelican' by Alberic Collin (Belgian 1886-1962). This bronze was cast by the lost wax process at the Valsuani Foundry, Paris circa 1925. Before casting it was signed and stamped in the wax 'Alberic Collin' and 'C Valsuani Cire Perdue'. This cast has a rich dark brown to black patina with gold highlights.

Dimensions:

Height	16 in	40 cm
Length	12 in	30 cm

Provenance:

Private Collection, Antwerp.
Sladmore Gallery, London, 2004.
Private Collection, New York.

Exhibitions:

Salles des Fetes, 'Alberic Collin', Antwerp, January 1929, catalogue number 27, 'Pelican debout', possibly refers to this piece.

Footnote:

Always keen to acknowledge the influence of Rembrandt Bugatti, Collin nevertheless achieves his own voice in this rendition of a bird much beloved by the Franco-Italian master. Collin dares to return to an almost nineteenth-century concern for detail in the delineation of plumage, without slipping into fussiness or losing a sense of overall form. He does not flatter the bird, which is a mature specimen, but accords it its natural dignity. The curiosities of nostril and crest are noted with more than just scientific accuracy, but affection and concern for visual interest and 'punctuation'. Like Bugatti, too, Collin was concerned with casting and patination of his bronzes, and sculpted in anticipation of the effects that could be achieved. Here a deep green-black is rubbed through to a gold-ochre layer, creating a natural vitality and richness of surface.

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Casting Note:

After a few early sculptures cast at the Compagnie des Bronzes foundry in Brussels, Colin transferred all of his production to the celebrated Parisian foundry Valsuani, which was started in 1908 by Claude Valsuani from Milan. According to Paul Verbraecken, who is soon to publish a catalogue Raisonné on Colin, whilst his bronzes are never numbered, all were produced strictly in editions of just seven examples. The present cast is a fine quality example of Valsuani's work produced circa 1925.