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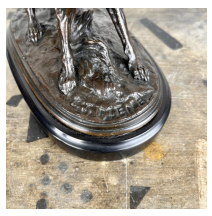
Antique Pierre-Jules Mêne, Bronze Figure of a Spaniel

£2,800

I wonderfully detailed Animalier bronze Study of a spaniel shown standing on naturalistic ground. The bronze with finely chased surface detail and a rich brown and golden patina from the artists own foundry; raised on a moulded Belgian black marble base. Signed PJ MÊNE

SKU: APTDOG1
Depth: 9.25 cm (4 inches)
Height: 13 cm (5 inches)
Width: 18 cm (7 inches)
Year: French Mid 19th Century



Pierre-Jules Mêne (French, 1810 ~ 1879) Mêne was born in Paris, the son of a prosperous metal-turner. His father trained him in metal-working techniques and he quickly put them together with his own natural talent for drawing and by 1837 he was casting his bronze sculptures in his own foundry. Mêne was a French sculptor and animalière and is considered one of the pioneers of animal sculpture in the nineteenth-century. Mêne produced a number of animal sculptures, mainly of domestic animals including horses, cows and bulls, sheep and goats which were in vogue during the Second Empire. He was one of a school of French animalières which also included Rosa Bonheur, Paul-Edouard Delabrierre, Pierre Louis Rouillard, Antoine-Louis Barye, his son-in-law Auguste Caïn, and François Pompon. His work was first shown in London by Ernest Gambart in 1849. Mêne specialized in small bronze figures which explains why none of his works exist as public statuary. The quality of these works is high, comparable to Barye's. Mêne enjoyed a longer period of success and celebrity than his contemporaries. He is considered to have been the lost-wax casting expert of his time. Examples of Menê's work reside in venues around the world, including museums such as the Ashmolean, the Louvre, the Metropolitan, and the R.W. Norton Art Gallery.