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Flore

Height: 58 cm

Bronze with a brown patina signed and numbered 2/8 on the base, with the stamp "Susse Frères Paris" at the back of the base

FLORE, 1947-48

Antoniucci VOLTI 1915-1989

Antoniucci Volti came from an Italian family that had lived in France since 1905. He was born in Albano, Italy, in 1915 while his father had to serve in the Italian armed forces during the first world war. In 1920 the family returned to France to stay. Volti studied at the École des Arts Décoratifs in Nice from 1928 to 1930. By 1932 the young sculptor had won a gold medal for two polychrome bas-reliefs before going to Paris, where he entered the studio of Jean Boucher at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris at the age of only fifteen. After serving in the second world war, when he was interned as a prisoner of war in Bavaria, he returned in poor health to Paris, only to find his studio destroyed. From 1947 he showed work at various Paris Salons and, in 1954 and 1955 at the Brussels and Antwerp Biennales. In 1957 Volti had an exhibition at the Museum Rodin in Paris.

The massive body forms of Volti's sculptures have something archaic and tranquil about them. The French artist Antoniucci Volti is, alongside Aristide Maillol, one of the 20th-century sculptors notable for their striving to realise their reception of the classical style with a closed plastic volume, harmonious balance and quiet expression. The statue 'La Méditerranée' (1960) reveals leanings towards Etruscan art, which, along with Greco-Roman antiquity, exerted a formative influence on Volti's bronzes and the sculpture he carved from stone and wood. As a personification in female guise, she shows her affinities, in her closeness to nature, with other works of Volti's, which, although symbolising emotions and abstract entities, always pay tribute to the female body in their compact, luxuriantly sensuous forms.

In 1961 he did the statue 'La Méditerranée' in stone for the Palais de la Méditerranée in Nice. Works by Volti are in leading museums such as the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris. Antoniucci Volti is one of the most important Late Modern sculptors to have worked figuratively in the 20th century, thus ensuring the continuity of the humanist tradition.