BRONZE VASE GUSTAV GURSCHNER CA. 1907

Bronze vase with quadrangular ornamentation, Gustav Gurschner, K.K. Kunst-Erzgießerei, Wien, ca. 1907, bronze, patinated, marked, signed

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Gustav Gurschner shaped the decorative arts around 1900 with his small-scale sculptures, distinguished by a highly individual and unmistakable formal language.

Characteristic of Gurschner’s work, the present vessel is clearly divided into two contrasting sections. The upper, bulbous body is enlivened by a continuous relief band featuring a rigorously structured, Etruscan-inspired geometric square motif. In deliberate contrast, the lower section is rendered as a smooth, darkly patinated base, whose restrained and tranquil surface underscores the richness of the ornament above. This interplay between ornament and plain surface is a defining element of Gurschner’s artistic vocabulary.

The vase compellingly unites Gurschner’s remarkable inventive approach to ornament with a conscious revival of archaic formal traditions, while at the same time embodying a modern, timeless aesthetic.

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