ELEGANT COUPLE FRANZ HAGENAUER CA. 1984

Elegant couple, design by Franz Hagenauer,
execution Werkstätte Hagenauer Wien, ca. 1984,
brass sheet nickel-plated marked

From the late 1960s onwards, Franz Hagenauer developed a strikingly modern approach to figural representation. Departing from the fully sculptural treatment of his earlier works, he embraced an almost two-dimensional design language, in which flat, nickel-plated brass sheets serve as both the structural framework and the defining compositional element.

This elegant pair exemplifies Hagenauer's late style. Depicting a fashionable gentleman in a top hat with a pipe and a lady carrying a parasol, the composition evokes the refined elegance and cosmopolitan spirit of the 1920s. Rather than pursuing naturalistic modelling, Hagenauer reduces the figures to their essential silhouettes, creating a compelling interplay between line, proportion, and surface. The result is a sophisticated dialogue between nostalgic subject matter and radically modern design, demonstrating the artist's remarkable ability to reinterpret familiar motifs through a concise and innovative formal vocabulary.

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