



FIGURAL CANDLE HOLDER GUSTAV GURSCHNER CA. 1901

Figural candle holder "Leuchterweibchen",
Gustav Gurschner, ca. 1901, bronze, patinated,
signed

Around 1900, Gustav Gurschner often combined everyday objects with figurative representations, especially female figures. This candleholder, which he called "Leuchterweibchen" (candlestick woman), offers a striking example. The elegant female figure holds her head up high, her eyes closed and her chin raised. Standing upright with her shoulders pulled back, she carries two round vessels which serve as candle or light holders. The base of the sculpture is formed by a flowing, finely chiseled dress which starts just below the figure's chest and flows downward in one sweeping curve. The figure's particular sensuality resonates with the aesthetic ideals of Art Nouveau. With its virtuoso modeling and harmonious balance between sensuality and functionality, this "Leuchterweibchen" made of dark patinated bronze is among Gurschner's most captivating works. The sculpture is signed by the artist on the lower edge and also bears the stamp "LMM", a reference to "La Maison Moderne," a shop for contemporary arts and crafts in Paris founded in 1899 by the German art historian Julius Meier-Graefe. Through its mediation and distribution of high-quality Art Nouveau objects, La Maison Moderne quickly became a leading center for early 20th century art and design. On a contemporary poster designed by Italian artist Manuel Orazi for La Maison Moderne around 1902, Gustav Gurschner's "Leuchterweibchen" is prominently featured. In addition, it was exhibited in Turin in 1902 in the La Maison Moderne section of the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative Arts.

