HORSE HEAD FRANZ HAGENAUER CA. 1935

Horse head, design Franz Hagenauer, manufactured by Werkstatte Hagenauer Vienna, ca. 1935, walnut wood, carved, stained, brass, marked

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The trophy-like horse head joins the figures of those popular animals which Werkstätte Hagenauer produced in brass, bronze, or wood from circa 1935 onwards. Its slanted, powerful neck and finely carved head perfectly express the animal’s grace in a noble way. Reduced to its essential features, the sculpture exemplifies the stylized form language of Werkstätte Hagenauer at its best. The horse's nostrils and its attentively pricked ears are finely designed and molded naturalistically. In contrast to the statuary elegance, the decorative brass mane gives the sculpture a nice dynamic effect. The basic model of a carved horse head is well documented in Hagenauer’s sales catalogue from 1957. In combining both, wood and metal, however, this sculpture can be considered a fine example of the perfect craftmanship in the two Hagenauer workshops, in Vienna and Fuschl, near Salzburg.

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