



VASE JOSEF HOFFMANN WIENER WERKSTÄTTE CA. 1924

Chased vase, design by Josef Hoffmann,
execution by Wiener Werkstätte, ca. 1924, brass,
chased, marked

Josef Hoffmann, a key figure in Austrian Art Nouveau and one of the founding figures of the Wiener Werkstätte, was unmatched in his ability to combine functionality with the highest artistic standards. His work reflects the stylistic transition from floral Art Nouveau ornamentation to a more geometrically oriented design language. This embossed vase demonstrates Hoffmann's pursuit of a clear design that nevertheless plays with natural forms in an artistic way.

At the turn of the century, forms found in nature often served as a source of inspiration for artworks and artistic objects of all kinds. The shape of this vase is reminiscent of an open calyx. The base of the vessel is designed as an inverted, slightly smaller calyx, creating a subtle tension between a sense of grounded stability and dainty levity. The finely balanced interplay of proportion and form is characteristic of Hoffmann's designs. The fine hammered finish is particularly noteworthy, bestowing additional texture upon the surface and making it shine in a lively play of light and shadow. The vase is yet another testament to the extraordinary technical sophistication and creativity in form that characterize the work of the Wiener Werkstätte and, in particular, Hoffmann's style-defining designs.

