WALL PLATE KARL KLAUS ERNST WHALISS WIEN CA. 1911

Large wall plate with parrot design, design by Karl Klaus, Ausführung Ernst Whaliss, Wien, um 1911, "Serapis-fayence", marked

Austrian architect and designer Karl Klaus studied under Josef Hoffmann at the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts (Kunstgewerbeschule) from 1908 to 1911. In 1911, he joined the Wiener Werkstätte.

Klaus achieved particular recognition for his designs for the so-called Serapis Faience, created around 1910–1911 for the Wiener Werkstätte and the Ernst Wahliss Porcelain and Faience Factory. Among these early works is the present Parrot Plate, which was illustrated as early as 1911 in the journal Deutsche Kunst und Dekoration.

The decoration is distinguished by ist rigorously geometric composition: a stylized tree and parrots are rendered in a highly ornamental manner and executed in vivid colours. Gold accents emphasize the decorative character of the design and lend the piece the elegance and refinement characteristic of the Jugendstil movement.

Kunsthandel Nikolaus Kolhammer GmbH
Agnesstraße 50, 3400 Klosterneuburg
Österreich, Europa

+43 676 406 46 00
info@kolhammer.com

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