

# *Stiebel, Ltd.*

## **A BRONZE STANDING BULL**

Flemish, late 17th Century

Bronze, 11 ¼ x 17 ½ in. (28.5 x 44.5 cm), mounted on a green veined marble plinth, height 4 ¾ in. (12 cm).

Model of a bull standing with head raised and bellowing, his tail curling around his rear hocks. The eyes, mouth and hair between the horns are well defined. The original model has been attributed to the Antwerp sculptor Artus Quellinus (1609 - 1668), circa 1640, whose style was influenced by Peter Paul Rubens. Subsequent casts were generated by later generations of the Quellinus family. A bull of this model is depicted in the *Kunstkammer* painted by Willem van Herp (c. 1614–1677) in the collection of the Pitti Palace, Florence.

It has been suggested that the bronze exists in as many as eleven known casts, but it is not clear whether this number represents an actual census: Probably the primary version, a cast with integral footplates and touched with remnants of gilding, is in the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Munich (inv. R3232). In 1923, the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum deaccessioned another almost equally fine example also with footplates and traces of gilding, which subsequently passed through Amsterdam collections into the Rijksmuseum in 1952 (inv. BK·16944) A cast, which like the present example lacks a footplate was formerly in the Camillo Castiglioni collection, Vienna. It passed to the Boscauwen collection and was bequeathed to the Fitzwilliam museum in 1997. Thermoluminescence testing of this cast indicated it was made no later than 1650.

David Peel & Co., 1965;  
Paul Wallraf Collection;

### Bibliography:

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Related Literature:

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Scholten, Frits, *From Vulcan's Forge: Bronzes from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, 1450-1700*, exh. cat., Danny Katz Ltd, London, 2005, pp. 136-7, no. 43.

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Weihrauch, Hans R., *Die Bildwerke in Bronze*, Munich, Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, 1956, p. 169, no. 208.

Weihrauch, Hans R, *Europäische Bronzestatuetten*, Braunschweig, 1967, p. 377 and fig. 457; *see also* p. 472 and fig. 558.