Statuette (Animal Figurine) - Monkey picking fleas from its baby

Ceramics and Glass Collection

Accession Nr.:	81.234.1
Artist/Maker:	Simay, Imre (1874 - 1955) / designer
Inscription:	a talapzat üreges belsejében masszába nyomva: szőlőfürt WK összevont monogram, keret nélkül
Materials:	faience
Techniques:	covered with white overglaze; with cast and shaped parts
Dimensions:	height: 28,2 cm base diameter: 10,8 x 11 cm

The statuette shows two figures over a short, octagonal plinth. The monkey with a bent head sits straight, picking fleas from its baby while holds the baby with its knees. The shape is not detailed, depicting only the most typical elements of the motion, in a soft arrangement, with geometrical blocks. The characteristic shapes used by the artist can easily be recognized on this statuette, which has a dated and marked version from 1906, now in a private collection. The articles published in the 15th volume of the periodical Magyar Iparművészet (Hungarian Applied Arts), 1912, describe the role given the topic in Simay's drawings (pp. 1-6) and how he could communicated his constructivist principles in education, in the Hungarian Royal School for Applied Arts (pp.31- 38). The close connection of the school to the Wiener Keramik workshop is shown by the fact that the Hungarians had called a special teacher from Vienna to raise the standard of ceramic education.

Literature

- Szerk.: Dózsa Katalin: *Az áttörés kora. I-II. Bécs és Budapest a historizmus és az avantgárd között (1873-1920)*. Budapesti Történeti Múzeum, Budapest, 2004. - Nr. 5.5.44. (analógia)
- Szerk.: Siemen Wilhelm: *Ceramic - Culture - Innovation, 1851-2000*. Deutsches Porzellanmuseum, Hohenberg an der Eger, 2002. - p. 78.
- Szerk.: Szilágyi András, Horányi Éva: *Szecesszió. A 20. század hajnala. (Az európai iparművészet korszakai.)*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1996. - Nr. 9.140. (Csenkey Éva)
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- Csenkey Éva: *A magyar szecesszió kerámiaművészete*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1985. - Nr. 134.





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