Finch & Co



FRENCH LIFE-SIZE ARTICULATED FRUIT WOOD AND BRASS ARTISTS LAY FIGURE

A LARGE FRENCH LIFE-SIZE ARTICULATED FRUIT WOOD AND BRASS ARTISTS LAY FIGURE
LATE 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: LIFE-SIZE

LITERATURE

THESE DOLL-LIKE MODELS OF THE HUMAN FIGURE ARE ARTICULATED AND JOINTED SO THAT IT CAN BE GIVEN ALL KINDS OF POSES. THEY CAN BE ANYTHING FROM A FEW INCHES IN HEIGHT TO LIFE-SIZE. EARLY LAY FIGURES WERE MOSTLY SMALL AND WERE CALLED MANIKINS, ALTHOUGH VASARI MENTIONS A WOODEN LIFE-SIZE, AND FULLY ARTICULATED ONE MADE BY THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ARTIST FRA BARTOLOMMEO (1472 – 1517). SOME 18TH CENTURY PORTRAIT PAINTERS USED A LIFE-SIZE FIGURE COMPLETELY JOINTED AND COVERED WITH FABRIC ON WHICH THEY ARRANGED COSTUMES AND USED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SITTER IN ORDER TO CONTINUE WORK ON A PICTURE. WHEN MILLAIS PAINTED 'THE BLACK BRUNSWICKER' IN 1859-60, (NOW IN THE LADY LEVER ART GALLERY AT PORT SUNLIGHT), THE MODELS FOR THE TWO LOVERS, WITH GREAT VICTORIAN DECORUM, POSED SEPARATELY, EMBRACING A LIFE-SIZE LAY FIGURE.