

OSBORNE SAMUEL

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

ELISABETH FRINK (1930-1993)



Standing Group, 1983

Bronze

33 x 27.3 x 27.3 cms

(12.97 x 10.73 in)

P.O.A.

Signed on the base and numbered from the edition of 8
Maquette for the monumental *Dorset Martyrs*, Dorchester, UK

Provenance:

Waddington Galleries, London (exhibition label on base of bronze)

Chesil Gallery, Portland, Dorset, 1991

Private collection, USA, 1991 (purchased from the above) and thence by descent
Osborne Samuel, London

Literature:

Elisabeth Frink, "Sculpture 1984", published by Harp Vale Books, no. 277, illustrated page 197

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Elisabeth Frink, Catalogue Raisonne of Sculpture 1947-1993, edited by Annette Ratuszniak, published by Lund Humphries, 2013, FCR 315, p.159

This group of figures is the maquette for a public commission to commemorate Catholic martyrs who died for their beliefs in the 16th and 17th centuries. Unveiled in Dorchester in 1986 it marks the site of a former gallows where Catholic martyrs were hanged. The triangular formation shows a gowned and hooded figure as a representative of justice, possibly a hangman, before two victims.

Frink's work shows a reference to Rodin's concern with unfinished textured surfaces, which create tension. In addition, the grouping of the penitent figures evokes Rodin's 'Burghers of Calais 1895,

It is interesting to note there are differences between the maquette and the final monument. In the maquette both victims have their hands held together in front and the hangman is standing with his hands by his side. Whilst in the monument one victim has crossed hands in front, the other has crossed hands at the back and the hangman is striding forward with a slightly lifted left arm.