OUAISS ANTIQUITÉS
Galerie des Arts



Art Nouveau ceiling light by d'Argental

Era: first 20th century, Art Nouveau.

Materials: glass, bronze.

Dim: H 46 cm / D 42 cm.

Dim: H 18 in / D 16 in.

Signed: d'Argental.

A glass paste suspension made up of two layers of orange and brown glass depicts pine cones at different levels of opening hanging from their branches dotted with their needles, which are removed with acid. The bronze frame is formed by three ivy-shaped hooks that continue in chains and meet at the centre of the ceiling cover decorated with acanthus leaves. Signed d'Argental.

Paul NICOLAS (D'Argental) (1875-1952), pupil of Emile GALLE.

At the age of fifteen, he entered the Nancy School of Fine Arts, in the architecture section, where he discovered painting, drawing and watercolours. He left the École des Beaux-Arts in 1893 with his diploma.

A botanical enthusiast, Paul tirelessly scoured the area around Nancy in search of mushrooms and

plants for his herbarium. Thanks to his passion for botany and his exceptional drawing skills, Paul Nicolas' professional life took a definitive turn; he was taken on by Emile Gallé, who immediately saw in him great abilities. At the Gallé company, Paul Nicolas was introduced to his future profession as a draughtsman, glass decorator and later master glassmaker.

After the Second World War, Paul Nicolas left the Gallé company to set up his own business with three other artists, which he closed in 1923. He eventually set up his own workshop and signed a contract with the Cristalleries de Saint-Louis. At first, he signed his work d'Argental; from the late 1920s, he signed it P. Nicolas, occasionally adding the name Nancy.