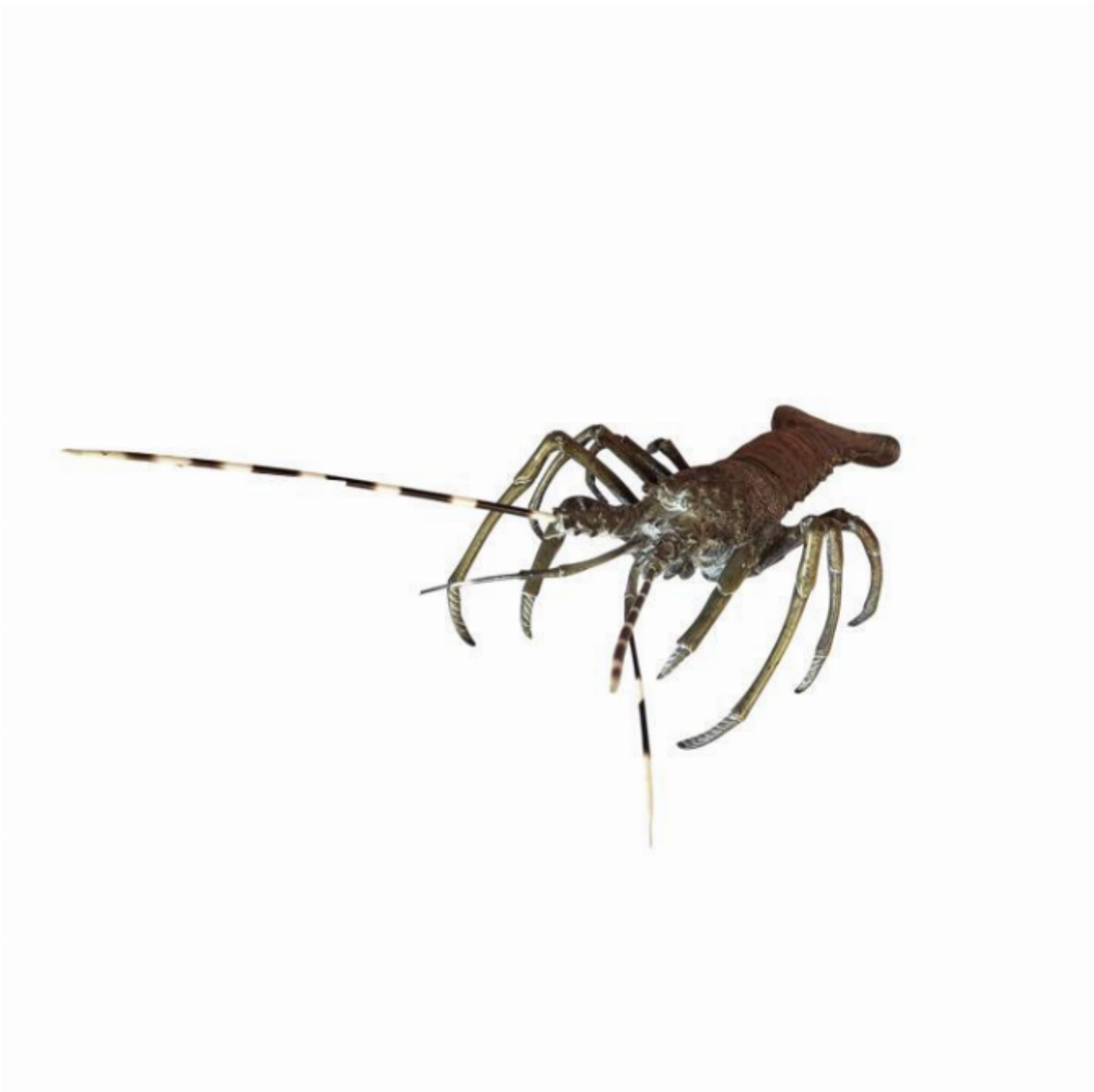
Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Large Japanese Meiji Bronze Lobster, Circa 1890

£795



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REF: 7727

Height: 12 cm (4.7")

Width: 12 cm (4.7")

Depth: 37 cm (14.6")

Description

A superb and substantial Japanese bronze sculpture of a lobster, created during the Meiji period and dating to circa 1890. Finely cast with exceptional attention to naturalistic detail, the lobster is portrayed with articulated-looking legs, curling antennae, prominent claws, and a richly textured segmented shell. Its poised, animated form gives the piece a remarkable sense of life and movement.

Japanese metalworkers of the Meiji era were celebrated for their extraordinary technical skill and their ability to transform familiar subjects from the natural world into highly refined works of art. Lobsters, crabs, fish, and other marine life became particularly admired subjects, allowing artists to demonstrate precise observation, intricate surface modelling, and mastery of patinated bronze. This impressive example is a fine expression of that tradition.

The dark bronze surface enhances the sculptural depth of the body and shell, drawing attention to the finely worked details across the claws, legs, and tail. Signed to the base, the sculpture has both decorative impact and collector appeal, whether displayed as a standalone object or within a wider collection of Japanese bronzes and Meiji-period works of art.

A striking and characterful piece for a library, study, cabinet, or interior with an interest in natural history and Asian art. Its generous scale, accomplished casting, and wonderfully lifelike presence make it an especially compelling example of late 19th-century Japanese bronze work.

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