MODERNITY

Vase by Berndt Friberg for Gustavsberg
Sweden, 1960s

Signed.

From a private Swedish collection.

Unique.

Berndt Friberg is among the most skilled Swedish ceramicists of the 20th century. He produced tremendously sought-after pottery and created exceptional glazes and forms. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he threw and glazed all of his pieces himself.

Berndt Friberg mastered the technique of rabbit's fur glaze, which is achieved by mouth spraying layers of differently coloured glaze onto the body of the vessel. His ceramics with this type of glaze -- in a large variety of different colours -- are particularly collectable. Friberg was very successful during his lifetime. The late King of Sweden, a dedicated ceramics collector, was allowed to view Friberg's exhibitions before the openings to select Fridberg's pieces.

Friberg's early glazed works were matte but became increasingly shiny from the late 50s onward, often showing striking geometric patterns. His work consists of objects in every size, ranging from miniatures -- the smallest of which is no larger than a couple of centimetres -- to large floor vases. Friberg always placed each of his vessels on a small foot ring, and since he was a perfectionist, he made sure that there were never any dried glaze droplets on these characteristically brown

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