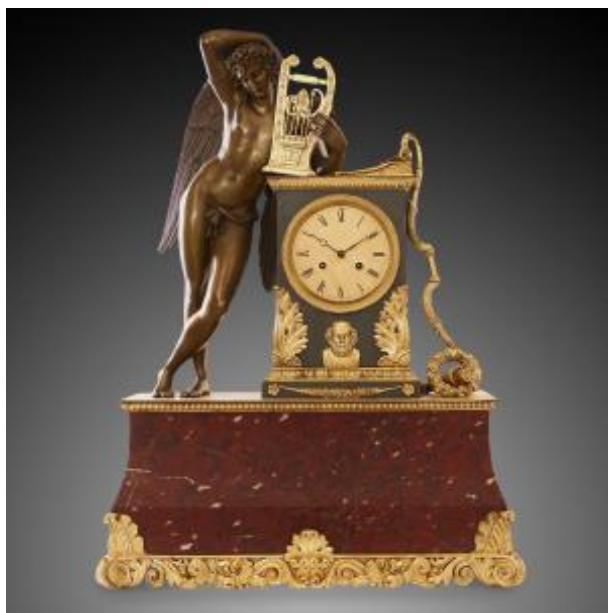




Mantel Clock Louis Philippe Charles X Period



6 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 50 cm

Height : 67 cm

Depth : 19 cm

Description

Royal Antique is proud to present this exceptional mantel clock, a true collector's piece that beautifully bridges the stylistic transition from the grandeur of the Charles X Restoration to the more intimate elegance of the early Louis Philippe Monarchy. This striking timepiece masterfully combines patinated bronze sculpture with vibrant gilt bronze ornamentation and a rich marble base, reflecting the refined taste of the period. Figural Allegory and Design: The Muse of Lyre: The clock is magnificently surmounted by a finely rendered, classically inspired figure, likely a Muse or Apollo, depicted in patinated bronze. Leaning gracefully against the clock case, the figure holds a meticulously detailed lyre, executed in contrasting gilt bronze. This allegorical representation celebrates the arts,

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Royal Antique

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Tel : +48 722090633

Mobile : +48 722090633 (WhatsApp)

Warszawa 02-681

music, and poetic inspiration, themes that remained central to French decorative arts even as styles evolved. The subtle patination of the figure provides depth and contrast to the gleaming gilding.

Classical Clock Case: The central clock case is crafted from a dark, possibly patinated bronze or a dark marble veneer, providing a sober yet elegant backdrop for the dial and its surrounding ornamentation. It is adorned with finely chased gilt bronze mounts, including a classical mask below the dial and delicate foliate scrolls.

Dial and Signature: The circular white enamel dial is seamlessly integrated into the case. It features crisp Roman numerals for the hours, and elegant blued steel hands. Such a piece would typically be signed by a prominent Parisian clockmaker of the era, though the signature is not legible in the image.

Ornate Elements: To the right of the clock, a fluid, serpentine gilt bronze element extends, leading to a classical wreath or scroll motif, providing visual balance to the composition. The entire sculptural arrangement rests upon a substantial, molded plinth of polished red marble, likely rouge griotte, which itself is richly embellished with a scrolled and foliate gilt bronze mount along its base, culminating in a central shell motif.

Materials and Craftsmanship: Contrast of Materials: The masterful interplay between the deep, rich tones of the patinated bronze figure and the dark clock case, juxtaposed with the lustrous brilliance of the gilt bronze mounts and the vibrant red marble base, is a hallmark of the luxurious decorative arts from this transitional period. This sophisticated contrast creates a visually dynamic and opulent effect.

Exceptional Detailing: Every element of the bronzework, from the delicate features of the allegorical figure to the intricate chasing of the lyre, the mask, and the scrolling foliage on the base, demonstrates an extraordinary level of skill and meticulous attention to detail. This craftsmanship is characteristic of the finest Parisian bronziers and horlogers of the early 19th century.

Historical

Context and Decorative Impact: This mantel clock is a quintessential example of the aesthetic preferences during the Charles X Restoration and early Louis Philippe periods (roughly 1820-1840). While retaining the classical forms and mythological allegories inherited from the Empire style, these pieces often adopted a slightly softer, more graceful ornamentation and sometimes incorporated elements of burgeoning Romanticism. The emphasis shifted slightly from overt imperial grandeur to a more refined elegance suitable for the Parisian salons of the burgeoning bourgeoisie and the reinstated aristocracy. Such clocks were central to the décor of prestigious interiors, serving as both functional timepieces and eloquent artistic statements that reflected the cultural values and classical tastes of the elite. It would be a commanding and historically rich addition to any distinguished collection of antique timepieces or 19th-century French decorative arts, offering both historical depth and captivating artistic beauty.