Unique Bronze Proof Of De Pierre-jules Mêne (1810-1879), "mazagran"



7 000 EUR

Signature : Pierre-Jules Mêne (1810-1879)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 28,5

Height : 22 cm

Depth : 12 cm

Description

Extremely rare bronze by Pierre-Jules Mêne (1810-1879) depicting an allegorical subject on the defense of Mazagran, a currently identified example. Low-relief sculpture, a symbolic animal transposition evoking the battle of Mazagran, which took place in 1840 in western Algeria. Mazagran was a small fortified hamlet not far from Mostaganem, where one hundred and twenty-three French army chasseurs, the zéphyrs, were besieged. For three days and three nights, on February 3, 4 and 5, 1840, they repelled the assaults of fifteen thousand men from more than one hundred and twenty Arab tribes under the command of Abd el-Kader. The iconography of this bas-relief depicts France with the rooster, symbol of courage and bravery, and the flag protecting the walls of Mazagran. The wolves and

Dealer

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felines in the lower section represent the attackers.
First reference: the bronze was refused at the 1841 Salon and appears in the archives as refused. The second reference is to the 1846 catalog, in which it is mentioned without any indication of size or price. In Pierre Jules Mêne's catalog raisonné, page 206, it is stated that "The bronze refused at the Salon has not been identified and has disappeared, and we wonder about the edition of this bas-relief, as no print has been reported to us".
Published by
Plaster; atelier P.J Mêne, 1846: published by the artist?
Bronze; Mêne catalog, 1846: published by the artist ? Allegorical subject on the defense of Mazagran, priceless

Literature: Poletti & Richarme, Pierre-Jules Mêne; Catalogue raisonné, Paris, 2007 page 206
Provenance: Private collection, South of France

Dimensions
Height : 8.66 in
Width :11.22 in
Depth : 4.72 in

Period : 1846
Origin : France, Paris
Materials : Bronze and blackened pearwood