



PROANTIC
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Rare Samson Porcelain Figures Of Orpheus And Aphrodite, Greek Mythology, C. 1850s



500 EUR

Signature : Samson

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Porcelain

Height : 14,5 cm

Description

Rare mid-19th century Samson Paris porcelain figures of Orpheus and Aphrodite, Greek mythology, c. 1850s. This rare pair of Paris porcelain figures by Samson et Cie, dating to circa 1850s, represents Orpheus, the legendary musician and poet, and Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, from classical Greek mythology -- known as Venus in the Roman tradition. Finely hand-modelled and painted in vibrant enamel colours, these figures embody the Historicist spirit of the mid-19th century, combining Neoclassical subject matter with Rococo Revival decorative influences. Orpheus is depicted nude, holding a lyre -- the symbol of his divine musical talent -- and a laurel wreath, emblematic of poetic inspiration. Aphrodite stands gracefully, draped in a flowing robe, and holds a paddle referencing

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her mythical birth from the sea and her association with water. The bases feature pierced Rococo-style scrollwork, delicate floral touches, and fine gilt detailing, reflecting the revivalist enthusiasm for 18th-century French and German porcelain traditions. Each figure bears the distinct blue underglaze Samson mark on the underside, featuring a hand-painted "S" above a six-pointed star or asterisk, a documented hallmark used by the manufactory during this period, reflecting Samson's tradition of emulating earlier European porcelain marks.

Historical Background Founded by Edmé Samson in Paris around 1845, Samson, Edmé et Cie became renowned for producing high-quality porcelain pieces in the styles of earlier European manufactories such as Meissen, Sèvres, Worcester, Derby, and Chelsea. Originally intended to supply reproductions for collectors seeking to complete antique sets, Samson's work quickly gained distinction for its technical skill and faithful interpretation of 18th-century designs. Pieces by Samson et Cie are typically marked with variations of underglaze blue marks, such as the star or asterisk, often subtly different from original factory marks. By the mid-19th century, the factory had established itself as a leading Parisian workshop, valued today for its fine modelling, vibrant enamels, and important role in the tradition of Historicist decorative arts.

Measurements Height: 14.5 cm / 5.7" Total weight: 312 g

Condition Attractive overall antique condition, with vivid colours, crisp modelling, and strong decorative presence. Orpheus retains his lyre and laurel wreath; however, the tip of the little finger on his right hand is chipped. Aphrodite retains her original stance and drapery; the paddle she holds has a missing tip. Minor surface wear to the gilding and typical firing imperfections are present. Despite these minor losses, both figures present beautifully and retain excellent decorative appeal.

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