



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Allegorical Renaissance Medal, Germany



2 100 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Description

Medal: Truth, Daughter of Time
Germany or Netherlands, dated 1570
Monogrammist HG
Diameter: 8.7 cm
Time is personified as a winged old man holding an hourglass, lifting Truth from the ground in the form of a naked woman. Truth is held back by Calumny, depicted as a female figure with webbed feet - associated with instability and the difficulty of moving on solid ground, symbolizing a fragile foundation, like lies. Calumny also has a serpent's tail, a traditional symbol of cunning and deceit, and holds a snake, representing venomous speech. In the background field, a bird flying with a branch in its beak might symbolize peace regained after the revelation of truth. A lush landscape with architecture further enhances the depth of the scene. Around the composition, a raised Latin

Dealer

ES Works of Art

Haute époque, antiquités

Mobile : 0677286074

sur rendez-vous

Paris 75018

inscription reads: ABSTRUSAM TENEBRIS
TEMPUS ME EDUCIT IN AURAS (Time brings
me out of darkness into the light.) The additional
inscription VERITAS FILIA TEMPORIS (Truth,
Daughter of Time) reinforces the allegorical
meaning of the work. This classical Latin
expression conveys the idea that truth is always
revealed in time. Often attributed to the Roman
historian Aulus Gellius, it reflects an ancient
belief in time's power to uncover facts and dispel
falsehoods. This plaque reflects the humanist
spirit of the Renaissance, where the pursuit of
truth and knowledge was central, and faith in
intellectual and moral progress relied on time's
gradual revelation of truth. This iconography was
common in 16th-century Mannerist art, especially
within the humanist tradition, where virtues and
vices were often personified to illustrate moral
lessons. The HG monogram has been attributed to
Heinrich Goltzius or Hans Jacob Gessner, though
its precise identification remains debated. Cf.
Weber, *Deutsche, Niederländische und
Französische Renaissance Plaketten*, Munich
1975, no. 274. On the artist see also cat.
Nürnberger Goldschmiedekunst 1541 - 1868. vol.
I *Meister, Werke, Marken*, Nuremberg 2007, no.
401.