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## Castelli Maiolica Dish With Young Woman And Spindle In A Landscape With Ruins, Mid-18th Century



1 000 EUR

Signature : Nicola Cappelletti

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Earthenware

Diameter : 17,5cm

### Description

Castelli maiolica dish with young woman and spindle in a landscape with ruins, mid-18th century

Castelli, Abruzzo, mid-18th century

Diameter: approx. 17.5 cm

Polychrome tin-glazed maiolica (grand feu)

A young woman sits on a rock, dressed in blue, holding a spindle delicately between her fingers. She is placed within a carefully structured landscape: rolling hills fading into soft blue, classical ruins with broken columns on the right, and stylised trees painted with quick, fluid brushstrokes. One detail, however, draws particular attention: a radiant sun shining through the clouds, perfectly aligned with the figure.

This is not just a background motif.

Several ceramic historians have recognised this

### Dealer

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type of sun as a visual signature, a recurring element found in works by the painter and ceramicist Nicola Cappelletti (1691-1767), active in Castelli during the 18th century. Subtle, almost hidden, this sign reappears across different known pieces and points to a specific hand.

Near the foot of the female figure, on the brown ground, one can also detect a fingerprint left by the painter, likely impressed while the glaze was still fresh.

The composition most likely derives from a 17th-century French engraving, as was often the case in Castelli workshops, where pastoral or allegorical subjects were freely adapted from widely circulated prints.

The colour palette -- cobalt blue, copper green, antimony yellow, ochre and manganese brown -- is applied in grand feu technique, with swift and expressive brushwork.

A small firing flaw is visible along the rim, near the right-hand column.

Back glazed in white, undecorated.