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A Bronze Portico Clock, White Marble



Description

Royal Antique is proud to offer this magnificent mantel clock, an exemplary piece showcasing the grand scale, classical inspiration, and exceptional craftsmanship synonymous with the French Empire period. This horological masterpiece combines precise timekeeping with a striking architectural design, making it a powerful decorative statement. Design and Materials: Classical Architectural Form: The clock is designed as an imposing portico, meticulously crafted from pristine white marble. Two robust columns, fluted and adorned with highly detailed gilt bronze capitals and bases, majestically support a prominent semicircular pediment. This architectural framework directly references the classical temples and monuments revered during the Napoleonic era. Imperial

1 500 EUR

Signature : VALER BERBUTER

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Marble

Length : 26 cm

Width : 10 cm

Diameter : 11 cm

Height : 40 cm

Dealer

Royal Antique

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Embellishments: The pediment is beautifully decorated with a frieze of meticulously chased gilt bronze stars, symbolizing imperial grandeur and ambition. Further gilt bronze detailing, including a lavish draped swag with a central classical mask and intricate scrollwork, cascades elegantly below the dial, adding opulence and depth.

Horological Clarity: The large, pristine white enamel dial features crisp Roman numerals and elegant blued steel hands, ensuring excellent legibility. The dial is encircled by a finely reeded gilt bronze bezel, and below it, a large, gilt bronze sunburst pendulum with a central classical urn swings gracefully, providing a mesmerizing visual rhythm.

Integrated Base: The entire portico structure rests upon a substantial rectangular white marble base, which is exquisitely adorned with a continuous frieze of finely chased gilt bronze mounts, depicting classical motifs such as laurel wreaths, floral garlands, and possibly other symbolic attributes (e.g., torches, quivers). The clock stands on four sturdy gilt bronze toupie feet, providing both stability and decorative finesse.

Period Significance and Craftsmanship: Dating from the height of the French Empire period (circa 1805-1815), this clock perfectly encapsulates the era's dominant aesthetic. The strong, rectilinear forms, the lavish use of white marble, and the bold application of rich gilt bronze ornamentation all reflect Napoleon's desire to evoke the power, order, and glory of ancient Rome. The flawless execution of the marble carving, the intricate detailing of the bronze mounts, and the precision of the clockwork are a testament to the unparalleled skill of Parisian artisans working for the imperial court and discerning collectors of the time. This magnificent Empire portico clock is not merely a timepiece, but a powerful sculptural work of art that captures the imperial splendor and artistic ambition of early 19th-century France, representing an invaluable acquisition for any serious collector of historical decorative arts.