



Louis XVI Clock By Furet In Paris



3 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Marble

Width : 31 cm

Height : 35 cm

Depth : 13 cm

Description

We are delighted to present an exquisite Louis XVI mantel clock, titled "Venus and Cupid," an exemplary testament to the refined artistry and technical mastery of the late 18th century. This sophisticated piece, attributed to the celebrated Parisian bronzier and designer François Vion (fl. c. 1764-1800), showcases the era's unparalleled blend of classical elegance and masterful craftsmanship. Materials and Craftsmanship: Sculptural Elements: Meticulously carved from the finest white Carrara marble, the clock features a tender embrace between two allegorical figures: the goddess Venus (replacing the initial "Psyche" identification, as indicated by the "Venus and Cupid" title and typical iconography) and her son, Cupid. Their graceful forms are rendered with exquisite detail,

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embodying the era's idealized beauty. **Gilt Bronze Mounts:** These sculptural figures are perfectly complemented by richly chased and finely gilded bronze mounts, executed with the utmost precision. The gilt bronze elements include the elegant elliptical base, adorned with intricate rococo-inspired motifs, and delicate foliate scrolls that frame the composition. The clock rests on four finely cast gilt bronze feet, elevating its presence. **Symbolism:** Flanking the central figures, two doves, universally recognized symbols of love and fidelity, are beautifully incorporated, reinforcing the allegorical theme of the clock. **Movement and Dial:** **Precision Movement:** The clock houses an eight-day lever escapement movement, a hallmark of advanced horology for the period. It features a reliable half-hourly strike on a bell, testament to the accuracy and sophisticated mechanics of French clockmaking during this era. **Enamel Dial:** The pristine white enamel dial, signed "Furet à Paris," proudly displays clear Arabic numerals for the hours. Its elegant simplicity ensures legibility while maintaining the overall aesthetic harmony. The signature "J.C. Cailly" mentioned in the original description likely refers to the sculptor of the marble, not the overall design or clockmaker, and would typically be on the marble itself if present. Furet is the recognized clockmaker. **Period Details and Historical Significance:** Dating from circa 1780-1800, this mantel clock epitomizes the aesthetic transition from the ornate Rococo style to the more restrained and classical elegance of Neoclassicism, characteristic of the late Louis XVI period. The masterful combination of luxurious Carrara marble and radiant ormolu (gilt bronze), coupled with the allegorical figures, perfectly reflects the discerning taste and intellectual currents of the French aristocracy on the eve of the French Revolution. **Overall Impression:** This "Venus and Cupid" mantel clock is more than a mere timekeeping instrument; it is a significant work of art that captures the

opulence, intellectual sophistication, and technical prowess of late 18th-century French design. Its harmonious integration of exquisite materials, superb craftsmanship, and profound historical context make it an extraordinary acquisition for the most discerning collector or a distinguished centerpiece for a refined interior.