



19th Century Empire Malachite



3 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 35 cm

Width : 14 cm

Height : 53 cm

Description

This splendid mantel clock is a profound embodiment of the iconic grandeur and refined aesthetic of the Empire style, which flourished in France in the early 19th century. Its design masterfully combines classical purity with opulent ornamentation, characteristic of this period, which was heavily inspired by Greco-Roman antiquity. The undeniable focal point of the clock is the exquisite sculptural gilt bronze figure of a young woman, gracefully posed and emblematic of a classical muse or deity. She is depicted in a contemplative attitude, leaning elegantly against a fluted column and delicately holding a classical urn or vase. The exceptional skill of the founder-chaser is evident in the meticulous casting, the flowing drape of his attire, and the finely crafted details of his features

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and hairstyle, which capture a sense of serenity and beauty. The clock's mechanism is artfully integrated into a rectangular base, sumptuously veneered with striking malachite. This highly prized, richly green-veined mineral provides a vibrant and luxurious contrast to the vivid gilt bronze, emphasizing the clock's sumptuous character. The malachite base is further adorned with superbly executed gilt bronze mounts, featuring classical motifs such as scrolling acanthus leaves, neoclassical palmettes, and finely detailed floral garlands, typical of the decorative lexicon of the Empire period. The overall composition is harmonious, reflecting the rigorous design principles of architects and designers such as Percier and Fontaine, who strongly influenced the Empire aesthetic.

Technical and Historical Notes: The clock has an eight-day movement, striking the hours and half-hours on a bell, demonstrating the precision of French clockmaking of the period. This type of movement was standard for high-quality domestic clocks, ensuring exemplary reliability. The mechanism has recently been professionally cleaned and overhauled by a master clockmaker specializing in antique and museum-quality timepieces, ensuring its perfect working order for generations to come. The clock comes complete with its original balance, winding key, and bell.

Attribution and Context: The exceptional quality of the bronze casting and gilding, combined with the sophisticated neoclassical composition, strongly suggests the involvement of a leading Parisian bronzier or founder-chaser of the Empire period. Such craftsmanship is often associated with renowned workshops such as those of Pierre-Philippe Thomire, Claude Galle, or André-Antoine Ravrio, who supplied the imperial court and the discerning European aristocracy with objets d'art of unparalleled luxury.

Condition: The clock is presented in excellent original condition, with remarkably well-preserved original mercury gilding that displays a rich, warm patina consistent with its

age. Minor wear consistent with age and historical use.