



Louis XVI Portico Clock Signed Baudin Au Petit Carreau 18th Century Gilt Bronze



3 650 EUR

Signature : Baudin au Petit Carreau a Paris

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 38 cm

Height : 45 cm

Depth : 18 cm

Description

This is a late-18th-century French Louis XVI-style portico clock in fire-gilded bronze and marble. The ormolu (mercury) gilding technique was used - pure gold is mixed with mercury, applied to the bronze surface, and then heated to evaporate the mercury, producing a brilliant, durable gold finish. The clock has a neoclassical architecture: a molded base with carved winged putti and floral garlands supports two Corinthian columns. The entablature is richly ornamented with antique motifs (Greek key, palmettes, etc.) surmounted by winged griffins. A floral urn with griffin-head handles crowns the top. The pendulum is a stylized sunburst, a symbol of Apollo and the Sun King. Egyptianizing elements

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(Medusa masks with radiating crowns) alternate with classic motifs (rosettes, drapery swags) throughout the decorationsothebys.comproantic.com.

Gilding technique: The clock is made of copper-alloy bronze fire-gilded ("doré au mercure"), a traditional method of the periodapolloartantiques.nl. This process (also called ormolu) ensures fine detail retention and a vivid gold colorapolloartantiques.nlapolloartantiques.nl.

Clockmaker: The enamel dial is signed "Baudin au Petit Carreau, Paris." This refers to Jacques-François Baudin, a Parisian maker (master 1787) active in rue des Petits-Carreaux until 1815fraysse.net. Baudin created several similar portico clocks. Other Louis XVI clocks with allegorical scenes bear comparable signatures (e.g. "Baudin Fils aux Petits-Carreaux")fraysse.net. The signature confirms its Parisian origin.

Movement & Condition: The movement has been fully serviced and is in perfect working order. It retains its original pendulum and winding keyproantic.comanticstore.com. Only conservation cleaning (no re-gilding) has been done, preserving the original gilt finishanticstore.com. The clock is complete and in excellent overall condition, with no significant restoration.

Dimensions: Height - 45 cm; Width - 38 cm; Depth - 18 cm.