



## Antique Leda And The Swan In Elephant Ivory. With Documentation. Europe 19th Century



4 300 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Ivory

Diameter : 9,4 cm (3.66 in)

Height : 26,5 cm (10.24 in)

### Description

We present an exquisite three-dimensional European sculpture that delicately depicts the famous mythological scene of Leda and the Swan. Entirely carved in genuine elephant ivory (Elephas dentin), with an official certificate guaranteeing its creation prior to 1947, this piece dates from the mid to late 19th century, precisely between circa 1850 and 1890. The composition displays remarkable technical and artistic mastery. The figure of Leda stands gracefully and serenely in a thoughtful pose, with her right hand resting on her chin in an introspective gesture. Her faithfully sculpted anatomy conveys a subtle sensuality. The folds of the cloth barely covering her nudity add movement and elegance to the composition. The hair, rendered with meticulous detail, falls in soft waves down her back, adorned

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with a delicate floral ornament that adds a subtle decorative accent. At her feet, the swan, Zeus transformed, stands with wings spread and neck raised, creating a visually charged interaction full of symbolism. The carving of the feathers reveals exceptional craftsmanship, adding rhythm and dynamism to the work. The ensemble rests on its original cylindrical base, also turned in ivory, enhancing the decorative character of the piece and elevating it to the level of a display work. The overall finish exhibits a natural patina that highlights the intrinsic beauty of the material. Regarding its condition, the sculpture is in very good overall state. As is customary with antique ivory pieces, fine crackle lines and stable fissures are visible, particularly on the base and parts of the swan's body. These details are entirely compatible with the organic nature of the material and its age, and they do not compromise the structural integrity of the work. In fact, they add authenticity and character to its appearance. The cylindrical base retains its original shape and solidity. The story of Leda and the Swan is one of the most suggestive tales of Greco-Roman mythology. According to legend, Zeus, supreme god of Olympus, fell in love with Leda, queen of Sparta and wife of King Tyndareus. To approach her, the cunning god adopted the form of a majestic swan. Seduced or surprised by the creature, Leda conceived from this mythical union several children, including the famous Helen of Troy and the twins Castor and Pollux. This myth, rich in symbolism about power, desire, and transformation, has inspired countless works of art over the centuries. Painters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Correggio, or Rubens, as well as sculptors and engravers, have depicted this scene with varied approaches, from the sensual to the allegorical. During the 19th century, amid the flourishing of the historicist movement and late Neoclassicism, European workshops revisited these classical themes, producing works intended for a cultured public fond of mythology. Ivory sculptures were particularly appreciated for

their beauty, fineness, and the textural play that this noble material allowed. The theme of Leda and the Swan has inspired artists throughout the centuries with its fascinating blend of eroticism, elegance, and symbolism. In the 19th century, European sculptors revived this classical scene with a historicist and refined approach, as exemplified by this magnificent piece. It is an ideal work to enrich an art or antiques collection or to become a distinguished decorative element in any refined setting. Owning today an ivory representation of Leda and the Swan is not only a tribute to the rich artistic heritage of the past but also the preservation of a material manifestation of this ancient tale, which continues to captivate our imagination. A sculpture that perfectly combines history, technique, and beauty. A unique opportunity to acquire a singular work with full legal guarantee for international trade. Do not miss this unique piece. Dimensions: 26.5 x 9.4 cm (10.24 x 3.66 in). Weight: 720 g. **IMPORTANT:** Due to current regulations on antique ivory, this piece cannot be exported outside Europe. The export of ivory, even antique, to countries outside the European Union is prohibited under current legislation.