



**PROANTIC**  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

## Psyche Revived By The Kiss Of Love An Italian Work Hand-sculpted In White Carrara Marbre



12 500 EUR

Signature : dal modello originale di Antonio Canova  
(1757-1822)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Marble

Length : 56

Width : 27

Height : 58

### Description

Wonderful sculptural group depicting Psyche revived by the Kiss of Love an Italian work hand-sculpted in White Statuary Carrara marble. The tale of Love and Psyche was told by Apuleius in his Metamorphoses. The legend of Love and Psyche tells of two lovers whose love is hindered by envy. The tale has inspired artists of all ages in the creation of works of art, especially Antonio Canova (1757-1822). The work offered in this auction by Cenzi Art Gallery is taken from its model, hand-sculpted from a single block of Carrara marble. Story: The tale begins in the most classic of ways: in a city there lived a king and a queen who had three beautiful daughters... The youngest, Psyche, possessed an indescribable beauty and her splendor was compared to that of Venus. An incredible number of foreigners and

### Dealer

**Cenzi Galleria d'arte Scultorea**

Ancient Sculptures and Artwork

Mobile : 3895398456

Contrada Amica 58

Corigliano-Rossano 87064

many people from her country went to pay homage to the girl and instead the adoration to the goddess Venus decreased, reason for which the divinity became furious. Venus then called her son Cupid, showed him her rival and ordered him to make the girl fall in love with the most vile man that existed on the face of the earth. But Cupid struck himself, falling madly in love with the girl. Despite her beauty, Psyche was very sad because no mortal, aware of not deserving her, had the courage to ask for her hand. So the father asked the oracle of the god Apollo for a wedding and a husband for his daughter: Apollo ordered him to take the girl to the top of a cliff decorated for a funeral wedding, and there Psyche would meet her husband, an evil monster. When this sad day arrived, Psyche followed Apollo's orders to the letter and left her parents in despair. It was not the monster foretold by the oracle that arrived at the rock, but Cupid, who led her to his palace with the help of Zephyr. Cupid went to meet her only at night, forbidding her to look at his face. Psyche followed these instructions but gave in only after being convinced by her envious sisters to look at him in a dream. Psyche thus discovered the true face of the god Love, his hair scented with ambrosia, his wings dewy with light, his white neck and cheeks of purple. From the god's quiver, Psyche drew a thunderbolt, which stung her, thus falling madly in love with Love himself. The lover, now awake, fled from Psyche who had violated the pact. Dejected, Psyche began to wander through the woods until she reached the city where her sisters lived and told them that Cupid had abandoned her because of them. In the meantime, Venus and her son Cupid had a very heated argument because the man had fallen in love with his mother's greatest rival, Psyche. Psyche, after having asked other goddesses for help in vain, decided to confront Venus and went to her palace to ask her permission to stay with her son Cupid. Venus gave her four increasingly difficult tests. The first test consisted of separating all the seeds from a

large pile into many separate piles...and she was helped by the ants. In the second test, Psyche had to bring Venus a thread of golden wool taken from the fleece of a flock of sheep. A reed gave her the right advice to complete the task. Psyche then had to go to the source of the river that feeds the Styx marsh and bring an amphora of water to the goddess. Jupiter's eagle provided her with help. Venus's last test was to bring a fragment of Proserpina's beauty from the underworld. During this test Psyche opened the jar with the beauty, which had been strictly forbidden to her, and in the blink of an eye she was enveloped in a cloud of sleep and fell in the middle of the road back to Venus's palace. Love rushed to the aid of his beloved and asked his father Jupiter to be able to take her with him to Olympus. Here Psyche, drinking ambrosia, finally becomes immortal. From the union of Love and Psyche a daughter was born, named Voluptuousness. Dimensions: 56cm height o 58cm o 27cm o 35/40kg The artwork depicted here has a sense of uninhibited movement, apparently suspending the laws of gravity: the result is an extraordinary demonstration of technical virtuosity and aesthetic refinement. Conditions: VERY GOOD! (Minimal signs on the wings due to approximately 150 years) The packaging will be made directly by Cenzi ArtGallery on an Epal wooden platform entirely covered in wood, with extra professional and specific materials inside! Shipping will be fast and traceable, fully insured. Cenzi ArtGallery certifies with invoices and expertise all the works you decide to purchase.