Pair Of 19th Century Candelabra, Under Napoleon.



5 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 27 cm

Diameter : 14 cm

Height : 54 cm

Description

This exquisite pair of 19th-century candelabra exemplifies the opulence and artistic grandeur characteristic of the Napoleonic era, reflecting the refined taste and imperial aesthetic that dominated the decorative arts of the First French Empire (1804-1815). Crafted with remarkable attention to detail, each candelabra demonstrates the unparalleled bronzework and design of the period, heavily influenced by archaeological discoveries and the neoclassical fervor of the late 18th century. During the Empire period, under the reign of Napoleon Bonaparte, a deliberate and systematic effort was undertaken to establish a new imperial style that would reflect the glory and power of his regime, drawing heavily on the grandeur of ancient Rome. This aesthetic permeated all forms of decorative arts, from

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monumental architecture to intricate domestic objects. Bronze, often mercury-gilt (ormolu), became the material of choice for elaborate furnishings, as it allowed for intricate detailing and a sumptuous finish that suited imperial taste. Each candelabra features a structure of richly patinated bronze and resplendent ormolu bronze, culminating in an elaborate arrangement of five sconces. These arms are gracefully adorned with meticulously carved acanthus leaf motifs and delicate rocaille scrollwork, presenting a blend of classical formalism and a subtle nod to the Rococo revival that would gain prominence later in the century. The multi-branched candelabra, designed to illuminate large spaces, became a staple of the sumptuous interiors of this period. At the heart of each substantial base stands a beautifully carved gilded putto figure. These charming cherubic figures, often associated with classical mythology (notably Cupid/Eros and Bacchus), were popular motifs in Neoclassical art. Here, they are gracefully posed, each holding a meticulously detailed vine-like stem that rises elegantly to support the set of sconces. The figures themselves, with their tender expressions and dynamic poses, evoke a sense of playful abundance and the joyful essence of light, echoing the Arcadian themes often found in classical art. The bases themselves are a tour de force of material and craftsmanship, crafted from a veneer of vibrant malachite. This luxurious green stone, with its distinctive swirling patterns, was highly prized during the Empire period for its exotic beauty and rich color. Malachite, often mined in the Ural Mountains of Russia, became a symbol of wealth and prestige, frequently incorporated into elite decorative objects. The malachite is lavishly enhanced with ornamental gilt-bronze mounts, depicting a repertoire of classical motifs--graceful garlands, meticulously rendered rosettes, and elegant scrollwork--all characteristic of the sophisticated decorative lexicon of the Empire style. These classical motifs were directly inspired by ancient Roman

and Greek art, reflecting the era's fascination with antiquity and its desire to emulate the perceived glory of past empires. These candelabras are a striking blend of neoclassical elegance and imperial grandeur, perfectly embodying the aesthetic ideals favored during Napoleon's reign. They are not merely functional lighting instruments, but significant sculptural works that would have graced the most prestigious salons, state rooms, and aristocratic residences, symbolizing the owner's status, wealth, and sophisticated taste. This collector's set is ideal for bringing an atmosphere of historical sophistication and unparalleled luxury to any discerning interior, providing a tangible connection to one of the most iconic artistic periods in history.