



19th Century Mantel Clock, Louis XV Period



2 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 29,5 cm

Height : 46 cm

Depth : 13 cm

Description

This elegant and refined 19th-century mantel clock is a remarkable example of the enduring influence of the Louis XV style, despite being made more than a century after the reign of Louis XV (1715-1774). It testifies to the lasting appeal of the Rococo spirit, characterized by graceful, sinuous forms, subtle asymmetry, and decorative lightness, in contrast to the rigor and monumentality of the Louis XIV era. The Louis XV style, which flourished in the first half of the 18th century, celebrates nature, movement, and fantasy. Decorative motifs--shells, delicate foliage, floral garlands, and arabesques--are reinterpreted here with 19th-century craftsmanship, demonstrating the virtuosity of Parisian bronze workers and engravers. The finely chiseled gilt-bronze ornaments emphasize

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Tel : +48 722090633

Mobile : +48 722090633 (WhatsApp)

Warszawa 02-681

the fluidity of the lines and the richness of the detail, while the overall composition of the clock embraces graceful curves typical of the Rococo aesthetic. The harmonious combination of structure and decorative elements gives the clock a refined balance and an elegant presence. Every scroll, every arabesque, every floral detail contributes to creating a vibrant and dynamic whole that attracts the eye while maintaining a subtle harmony. This attention to detail reflects not only technical virtuosity but also the artistic sensibility of the era, when decorative objects were conceived as works of art in their own right. The clock itself testifies to a high level of horological expertise, characteristic of 19th-century Parisian workshops that faithfully and precisely reproduced and reinterpreted 18th-century designs. The white enamel dial, with its elegant Roman numerals, is clear and legible, while the high-quality mechanism ensures reliable and steady timekeeping. The gilded and chased bronze mounts, combined with the curved forms and delicate ornamentation, give the clock a sumptuous brilliance and sophistication that make it a highly prized collector's item. Beyond its practical function, this clock is a true decorative piece and a living testament to the Louis XV aesthetic. It perfectly illustrates the taste for lightness, movement, and decorative whimsy, while showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship of 19th-century bronze workers and clockmakers. Its timeless charm and rich ornamentation make it a work that captivates as much by its beauty as by its technical refinement, symbolizing the successful union of art and craftsmanship throughout the centuries.