



Aubusson Tapestry Depicting The Banquet Of Cleopatra And The Pearl Earring. 17th Cent. Mt2x2,40



3 800 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wool

Width : 189 cm

Height : 240cm

Description

Aubusson tapestry depicting the Banquet of Cleopatra and the pearl earring. Second half of the 17th century. Dimensions: 240 × 189cm. Manufacture: Aubusson. Large wool tapestry depicting the episode of the Banquet of Cleopatra, during which the Queen of Egypt dissolves a pearl from her earring into wine in order to demonstrate to Mark Antony that this banquet surpassed all others in cost and magnificence. At the time, a single pearl of such quality represented an immense fortune, making the gesture a striking symbol of power, wealth and political authority. The scene is organised around the banquet table, on which cups, vessels and precious objects are carefully arranged. In the foreground, a large ewer placed on the ground stands out for its monumental presence,

Dealer

Antichità di Alina

Peintures anciennes - Art nouveau - Art déco, micromosaïques, porcelaine

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reinforcing the sense of abundance and luxury. Cleopatra occupies a central position, while Mark Antony and the accompanying figures structure the scene according to a clear visual hierarchy, characteristic of large narrative tapestries of the 17th century. The tapestry most likely belongs to a series dedicated to the history of Mark Antony and Cleopatra. The preparatory drawing can be associated with the circle of Isaac Moillon (1614-1673), painter to the King and brother of the renowned still-life painter Louise Moillon. Isaac Moillon produced numerous preparatory designs for tapestries woven in Aubusson, particularly for historical and mythological cycles that enjoyed wide circulation. Among his best-known creations is the series of the Story of Ulysses, preserved notably in the Aubusson Tapestry Museum. The tapestry is without border, probably as a result of an earlier adaptation to fit a specific interior setting. The reverse is lined with a carefully applied green fabric. A modern velcro hanging system has been added by a conservator, allowing for secure and respectful display. Good overall condition, with minor wear and alterations consistent with age and use. The absence of the border is old and does not affect the legibility of the scene, which retains a strong decorative presence.