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Virgin Of Marseille, Santibelli, Mary And Child Jesus, Terracotta Cherubs, 19th Century



360 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Length : dimensions au socle 11,5 cm x 9,5 cm

Height : 33,5 cm

Description
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Virgin of Marseille or Santibelli\* in polychrome and gilded terracotta, depicting the Virgin Mary holding the Infant Jesus on her left arm, standing on a base from which five cherub heads emerge, dating from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. This Virgin is in good overall condition and of fine quality. It has no globe or wooden base. It has a chapeet as decoration (possibly later) which is missing the cross. Note: the small cross on the orb held by the child is missing, as is what the Virgin held in her right hand; some losses of polychromy and gilding in places; wear consistent with age (see photos). \*Santibelli: "Santibelli" are statuettes generally about 40 centimeters tall. Molded in terracotta, but also in plaster, and originating from Italy, they are painted in very bright colors, sometimes sprinkled

Dealer
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with glitter, or gilded with gold leaf. The origin of the name of these statuettes is difficult to pinpoint: some suggest a typical Marseilles nickname, "Santibelli," which refers to the village simpleton, the likeable but not very bright fool. Others imagine that "Santibelli" comes from the cry uttered by the Italian vendors who, according to tradition, peddled these objects: "Santi... Belli..."; like a street cry, which, through a shortened form, has remained to designate these statuettes sold by street vendors. Dimensions: Base dimensions 11.5 cm x 9.5 cm Height 33.5 cm D10 132 All photos are available at: [www.antiques-delaval.com](http://www.antiques-delaval.com)