



François-eugène Rousseau (1827-1890) Sinisant Vase, Circa. 1889



5 800 EUR

Signature : François-Eugène Rousseau (1827-1890)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Crystal

Width : 20 cm

Height : 27 cm

Depth : 15. cm

Description

François-Eugène Rousseau  
(1827-1890)Chinoiserie Glass Vase Multilayers  
Craquelure Glass Vase. Decorated with  
polychrom stains in the glass, inclusions and «  
paillons d'or »Adorned in relief with chimera  
masks simulating handlesCirca 1885-1890Similar  
shape vase in the collections of the Orsay  
Museum in ParisA similar model is reproduced in  
"L'art du verre en France, 1860-1914", J.  
Bloch-Dermant, Edita Denoël, Suisse, 1974, p.35.  
and in "Glas des Art Nouveau, Die Sammlung  
Gerda Koepff", Prestel, Munich, 1998, p.80.  
François-Eugène Rousseau was born in Paris on  
March 17, 1827 and took over the direc-tion of  
his father's porcelain and faience business in  
1855. Quickly, the young man shows his desire to  
break with the industrial habits of the family

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business by seeking to create a more original and artistic production. Artist before being a merchant, Eugène Rousseau's love of the beautiful also guided great generosity. It is in this sense that he joined the first founders of the Central Union of Decorative Arts in 1862, accepting with good grace the financial risks of the 1863 Exhibition to support the patriotic efforts of this society. Ambitionnant to propose an inspired and innovative production, Rousseau was interested in the research of ceramists of his time and will be, from 1866, one of the first to be inspired by French art by having engraver Félix Bracquemond draw a - now famous - faience service take up the animal figures of Hokusai's ukiyo-e. Presented at the 1867 Universelle Exhibition in Paris, the "Rousseau service" met with great success. Following this first success, Rousseau chose to turn his creative verve towards another material, glass. And indeed, the artist and entrepreneur will find in glass a unique field of experimentation and creation. Inspired by chemistry but endowed with intuitions demanding discoveries, Rousseau entrusts the Appert brothers (in Clichy) with the task of manufacturing the pieces of glass whose shapes and decorations he imagines. For the realization of these decorations, precisely, he collaborates with the glass artists Alphonse-Georges Reyen and Eugène Michel to realize the deep engravings of his pieces. From this collaboration will come two remarkable vases with deep relief decorations imitating hard stone and evoking Japanese landscapes, "Mount Fuji" and "Japanese Waterfall", which will be presented at the Exhibition of the Central Union of Decorative Arts in 1884. On this same occasion, Eugène Rousseau will be the first to exhibit crackled glass filled with different colors, inspired by a 16th century Venetian technique. As a result, Rousseau will not stop continuing his research. He will notably be one of the first French artists to experiment with double-layer glass, obtaining unexpected and innovative decorations by the

superposition of differently nuanced pastes, by cracking or even by inserting metal sheets between two layers of glass, at the time of the merger. Thanks to the artistic achievements and commitments of the artist and entrepreneur, he was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Legion of Honor in 1885. The same year, he sold his company to Ernest-Baptiste Lèveillé, who was his assistant and who continued to execute the drawings of his friend and supporter until 1890 under the name "Maison Rousseau et Lèveillé réunis" (the works were then signed "E. Lèveillé and E. Rousseau"). Eugène Rousseau died in 1890 after a lifetime of creation dedicated to the promotion of a new art and patriotic emulation among artists. He is today considered as the great reformer of French glassware. One can for example read about him: "as for the glassware, one can without error attribute to Eugène Rousseau the merit of having shaken the torpor of this art, dormant since the year 1670. Of him in date the rebirth.