



Gloria Victis A. Mercie Bronze Figure 108 Cm F. Barbedienne



18 500 EUR

Signature : Antoine Mercier (1845-1916)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 52 cm

Height : 108 cm

Depth : 62 cm

Description

Subject and iconography

Impressive allegorical group titled "Gloria Victis", depicting a winged figure--an embodiment of Glory/Victory--supporting a dying warrior. The composition is highly animated (outstretched wings, billowing drapery, strong diagonals) and belongs to the grand French sculptural language associated with the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War (1870), a context to which this subject is traditionally connected.

Artist and model

After Marius-Jean-Antonin Mercié (1845-1916), a leading sculptor of the French Third Republic. "Gloria Victis" is among his best-known works and was widely issued in bronze by major Parisian foundries at the end of the 19th century. Foundry, edition and marks

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This example bears the expected marks found on high-quality period editions:

Artist's signature: "A. MERCIE" (a spelling commonly encountered on edition bronzes).

Foundry mark: "F. BARBEDIENNE, Fondateur".

Circular "mechanical reduction" stamp associated with the A. Collas process, a hallmark of Barbedienne's refined serial production, ensuring faithful translation of the model at the given scale.

Materials and technique

Cast in bronze with a nuanced brown patina, enhanced with gilt highlights (notably the cuirass and decorative details). The surface shows careful chasing: finely articulated feathers, hair, anatomy, and the ornamental work of the armour.

Dating

A late 19th-century cast (circa 1880-1900), consistent with the most sought-after Barbedienne editions bearing the mechanical reduction mark.

Display

A large-scale decorative sculpture intended as a statement piece for a formal interior--library, entrance hall, or collector's cabinet--where the contrast of patina and gilding enhances depth and readability.

Dimensions

Height: 108 cm

Width: 52 cm

Depth: 64 cm

Base diameter: 17 cm