



## Louis XVI Period Clock In White Marble And Gilt Bronze - "love The Archer"



21 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

### Description

A superb French Louis XVI style clock, made at the end of the 18th century, around 1780-1790, in statuary white marble and finely chased and mercury-gilded bronze. The composition, perfectly balanced in the Neoclassical spirit, is dominated by a figure of Cupid, depicted as an archer, standing at the top of the dial, holding his bow ready to release an arrow. This iconography, very popular during the reign of Louis XVI, evokes the allegory of triumphant love and reflects the antique taste inspired by archaeological discoveries and the Classical revival. The circular white enamel dial, signed Paris, features elegant Arabic numerals and slender gilt-bronze hands. It is set within a richly ornamented mount decorated with garlands of leaves and bunches of grapes, motifs

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characteristic of the Neoclassical ornamental vocabulary. The movement rests on a white marble pedestal adorned with a delicate gilt-bronze trophy composed of instruments and foliage. On either side stand two draped female figures in the antique style, serving as caryatids and supporting vegetal garlands. The rectangular marble base is decorated with a central medallion representing a rooster, a solar and vigilant symbol, framed by scrolls and chiseled rosettes. At either end, two gilt bronze and marble cassolettes represent antique-inspired incense burners, reinforcing the overall architectural symmetry. Characteristics: o Period: late 18th century, circa 1780-1790 o Style: Louis XVI / Neoclassical o Origin: Paris o Materials: white statuary marble and mercury-gilt bronze o Decoration: Cupid as archer, vegetal garlands, trophies, antique cassolettes o Dial: white enamel, signed Paris o Movement: key-wound mechanical (anchor escapement) Assessment: This model belongs to the typology of allegorical clocks depicting Cupid, highly sought after by collectors for the quality of their carving and the balance of their decorative architecture. The fineness of the chasing and the richness of the iconographic program testify to the expertise of Parisian bronze workers at the end of the Ancien Régime.