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Louis XVI Gilt Bronze Jardinière Napoleon III Period 19th Century

2 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 50 cm

Width : 37 cm

Height : 14 cm

Description

General Overview
Important decorative centrepiece or jardinière in finely cast and chased gilt bronze, made in France in the late 19th century in the neoclassical Louis XVI style.
With its generous proportions and architecturally structured decoration, this piece belongs to the tradition of large ornamental table centrepieces produced by French art bronze workshops during the second half of the nineteenth century, a period marked by the revival of historical decorative styles.
The composition combines monumental presence with refined craftsmanship typical of Parisian bronziers supplying elegant interiors and ceremonial dining tables.

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Stylistic Analysis

The decorative vocabulary clearly draws inspiration from the Louis XVI ornamental repertoire, itself rooted in the neoclassical aesthetics of the late 18th century.

Several characteristic motifs appear throughout the piece:

bead-and-reel and ovolo mouldings
oval medallions with rosette motifs
architectural pilasters dividing the structure
suspended floral garlands
sculpted ribbon bows

The structured rhythm of the decorative belt recalls the organization of Louis XVI furniture mounts and architectural bronzes, where symmetry and clarity of design are fundamental.

The lion paw feet, powerfully sculpted, give the piece both stability and visual strength, reinforcing its monumental decorative character.

Decoration and Casting Quality

The main frieze features a continuous sequence of oval relief medallions decorated with stylized floral motifs, separated by vertical architectural elements.

Below this runs a series of finely sculpted floral garlands, suspended between supports and tied with ribbon bows - a decorative motif directly inspired by eighteenth-century ornamental bronzes.

The quality of casting and chasing is particularly noteworthy:

crisp and well-defined reliefs
refined detailing in leaves and floral elements
balanced proportions of the decorative components
harmonious repetition across the entire circumference

These characteristics indicate high-quality artistic bronze work typical of French workshops of the late nineteenth century.

Materials and Techniques

The piece is executed in finely cast, chased and

gilt bronze, using traditional techniques
associated with decorative bronze production.
The process includes:
bronze casting of the structural and decorative elements
hand chasing to refine ornamental details
gilded finish providing a warm, luminous surface
The interior basin, oval in form, is designed to hold flowers, fruits, or decorative arrangements.

Function
Objects of this type were intended primarily as large decorative dining table centrepieces, used in aristocratic and bourgeois interiors for formal receptions and dinners.
They could serve as:
floral jardinières
fruit displays
decorative centrepieces for large dining tables
Thanks to its scale and rich ornamentation, this piece possesses a strong decorative presence and functions as a focal point within a table arrangement.

Dimensions:Height - 14 cm
Length - 50 cm
Width - 37 cm