



Tapestry "apollo In The Orangery Of Versailles" - Brussels Manufacture, 18th Century - No. 1480



8 500 EUR

Signature : Manufacture des Bruxelles

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Wool

Width : 175 cm

Height : 280 cm

Depth : 1 cm

Description

"Apollo in the Gardens: Allegory of the Sun King before the Orangerie at Versailles" Louis XIV style tapestry, Brussels Manufactory (18th century) Historical and Iconographic

Description The Subject: The Fusion of Myth and Power This work is a vibrant celebration of Louis XIV's ideology. The central figure is Apollo, the Greek god of light, the arts, and harmony. At the time, the Sun King directly identified with this deity to assert his role as protector of the arts and order-maker of the world. The god is depicted here not on Mount Olympus, but in an earthly setting immediately recognizable to contemporaries: the gardens of Versailles. This staging signifies that the royal domain is the new abode of the gods. Analysis of Details and Symbols The Figure of Apollo: Seated in a noble

Dealer

Galerie lissier

French Tapestry | Rugs & Kilims | Antique - Modern

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pose, he plays the lyre-harp, an instrument symbolizing the order and harmony he brings to the kingdom. He wears a richly decorated Roman cuirass and a draped ceremonial cloak, blending the image of the god with that of the victorious war leader.

The Versailles Orangery: In the background, to the left, one can see the famous orange trees in tubs, an innovation of the time that was the pride of Louis XIV. The classical architecture of the gardens, with its vistas and multi-tiered fountains, is also visible.

The Dolphin Fountain: Just behind Apollo, a fountain adorned with a dolphin spouting water can be seen. The dolphin is a powerful royal symbol in France (representing the king's eldest son), but also an attribute of Apollo in mythology (the Delphic god).

The "A Thousand Flowers" Border: The tapestry's frame is a technical marvel. This rich border of garlands, fruits (pears, grapes), and exotic birds (parrots, pheasants) symbolizes the abundance and prosperity of the kingdom under the monarch's reign.

Nature Tamed: In the foreground, large acanthus leaves and lush, yet perfectly ordered, vegetation illustrate the concept of the French formal garden, where man (and the King) tames wild nature.