



## Clock Mythologique "leander, The Fragrant Hero"



2 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Material : Bronze

Width : 51 cm

Height : 64 cm

Depth : 17 cm

### Description

This remarkable patinated and gilt bronze clock, dating from the Restoration period around 1830, is distinguished by its neoclassical sculptural composition, where the clockwork mechanism blends harmoniously with a mythological scene imbued with poetry and sensuality. It rests on an architecturally structured gilt bronze base, richly adorned with acanthus friezes, scrolling foliage, and finely chiseled decorative motifs. The circular white enamel dial with Roman numerals, encircled by a gilt bronze bezel and protected by a glass cover, sits at the heart of the composition as a

### Dealer

#### Clock Prestige

Clockmaker specialised in 18th & 19th Century antique clocks and objects.

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discreet yet essential element, integrated into a stylized rock that serves as a support for the figures.

Above this monumental base rises a sculpted group in patinated bronze, depicting a scene inspired by the ancient legend of Hero and Leander.

The female figure represents Hero, priestess of Aphrodite, recognizable by her noble bearing and the delicate veil draped over her head. In a graceful gesture, she raises her hand, holding a drop of perfume, as if to perfume her lover Leander--a delicate gesture that conveys the intimacy and tenderness of their relationship.

Facing her, Leander is depicted seated, slightly inclined towards the young woman, his gaze lifted to her with an expression that blends admiration and surrender.

His athletic, partially draped body recalls the aesthetic ideal of Antiquity, while the supple modeling of the flesh and the animated treatment of the draperies testify to remarkable sculptural skill.

The dynamic of their poses creates an intense visual dialogue: Hero leans towards Leander in a protective and tender gesture, while he embraces her gently, accentuating the sentimental dimension of the scene. The finely modeled faces express a restrained and elegant emotion, characteristic of Neoclassical sensibility, where balance and nobility of gesture take precedence over exuberance. The contrast between the dark patinated bronze of the figures and the luminous gleam

of the gilded bronze base highlights the object's rich decoration and enhances the depth of the composition.

This scene directly references the famous ancient legend: "Leander fell in love with Hero, a beautiful priestess of Aphrodite, during a religious festival. Leander lived on the Asian shore of the Hellespont, and Hero on the European shore. Every night, Leander swam across the strait to visit his beloved. One stormy night, the torch in the small tower of his house, which Hero always lit to guide her lover in the dark, went out. Leander could not find the shore and drowned. When Hero found Leander's body on the shore the next morning, at the foot of the tower, she was overcome with grief and threw herself into the sea to drown."

With its particularly generous proportions--64 cm in height, a considerable size for a clock of this type--this piece possesses a remarkable sculptural presence. It transcends the simple function of a timepiece to become a true decorative sculpture, where mythology, architecture, and the art of bronze converge in a harmonious, expressive, and profoundly romantic composition.

Original mechanism intact, unaltered, with a wire suspension. The hour and half-hour strikes are played on an antique bell with a clear and authentic sound.

ORDERING AND ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION FROM OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.proantique.com/en/1721906-clock-mythologique-quotleander-the-fragrant-heroquot.html>