



Clock Mythologique "apollo And The Serpent" Watchmaker: Pons



1 900 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Material : Bronze

Width : 34 cm

Height : 49 cm

Depth : 14 cm

Description

This remarkable clock is distinguished by its sculptural composition of rare expressive power. Seated nobly on a rocky base, Apollo, god of the arts and light, is depicted in a serene and inspired pose, delicately holding his lyre. His body, rendered with great anatomical finesse, unfolds in an elegant posture, both relaxed and majestic. The face, with its idealized features, expresses a calm spiritual elevation, while the gaze seems directed towards a higher harmony. The sculpture here constitutes the very essence of the clock: it commands attention with a sovereign presence, without requiring

Dealer

Clock Prestige

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

Mobile : 06-86-90-03-27

Lyon 69003

superfluous ornamentation.

The treatment of the mercury-gilded bronze reveals an exceptional quality of execution, particularly in the modeling of the flesh, the fluidity of the drapery, and the precision of the details. The laurel wreath, deeply chiseled and in strong relief, magnifies the god's head, underscoring his victory and his genius.

The circular dial, made of silvered bronze, sits harmoniously within a naturalistic mound of patinated dark green bronze. It is bordered by a serpent biting its tail--the ouroboros--an ancient symbol of eternity and the infinite cycle of time, reinforcing the philosophical dimension of the object.

The architecturally designed base, of great elegance, contributes fully to the balance and decorative richness of the whole. Crafted from finely chased and gilded bronze, its front features a remarkably detailed trophy of attributes--a lyre, quiver, arrows, and foliage--evoking the arts and victories of Apollo. At the heart of this composition, the serpent coiled around the lyre forms a particularly significant central motif: it directly echoes the Python vanquished by the god, here subdued and integrated into a harmonious iconography. This symbolic treatment illustrates the triumph of order, music, and light over chaotic forces. In the lower section, a continuous frieze decorated with palmettes and stylized motifs unfolds with regularity, emphasizing the horizontality of

the base and creating a refined, rhythmic ornamentation. The whole rests on delicately crafted feet, giving the clock a stable and majestic presence, while reinforcing its precious character and exceptional quality of execution.

From a mythological perspective, the piece references the episode in which Apollo slays Python, the monstrous serpent guarding the oracle of Delphi. This victory marks the god's rise as master of light, music, and prophecy. The presence of the serpent, both in the ornamentation of the base and in the frame of the dial, subtly recalls this foundational triumph, while the lyre held by Apollo embodies universal harmony, in contrast to the primal chaos symbolized by Python.

This clock is a prized piece for any art lover or discerning collector.

With its iconic subject, exquisite mercury gilding, and exceptionally fine carving, this clock does more than simply tell time; it offers a symbolic and timeless interpretation, where art, mythology, and fine watchmaking unite in a work of great nobility.

The original mechanism is intact and unaltered, with a wire suspension.

It strikes the hours and half-hours on an antique bell, producing a clear and authentic sound. The movement plate is stamped "PONS," a watchmaker listed in Tardy's dictionary of French watchmakers.

ORDERING AND ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION FROM OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.proantic.com/en/1730606-clock-mythologique-quotapollo-and-the-serpentquot-watchmaker-pons.html>