



H. Vian, "bacchic" Chandelier, France, Circa 1870



32 500 EUR

Signature : Henri Vian

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Diameter : 80

Height : 105

Description

Signed H. V. for Henri Vian A fine twelve-light chandelier in chased and gilded bronze, richly adorned with scrolls, garlands, beading, prisms, and faceted cut-crystal drops. The central shaft is formed as a fluted, bluish-patinated baluster-shaped vase containing flowers and fruit, decorated alternately with heads of satyrs and bacchantes, from which issue the twisted light arms with scrolling foliage centered with vine leaves. The whole is surmounted by a flattened sphere decorated with ram's heads, extending into a spiral topped with a bouquet of acanthus leaves forming the ceiling mount. At the lower part, the finial is composed of acanthus leaves ending in a pinecone. This chandelier develops an imagery directly inspired by Bacchus's procession, where festivity and nature intertwine. The presence of

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heads of bacchantes, satyrs, and rams situates the piece firmly within a Dionysian universe. The vine leaves and tendrils, omnipresent in the scrolling light-arms, reinforce this reference to wine and fertility. They structure the decoration while lending it an organic and luxuriant character, like vegetation in full growth.

Biography :Henri Vian, a bronze-caster active in the second half of the 19th century, produced numerous interior ornaments: fireplaces, vases with bronze mounts, chandeliers, balustrades... all of the highest quality. His signature is usually written in cursive letters, with the initial of his first name followed by his surname. On later works, only the two initials H.V. appear. The company, located at 5 rue de Thorigny in Paris (the Hôtel Salé, now the Musée Picasso), continued under the direction of Madame Vian after her husband's death in 1905.