



High-relief Sculpture 'the Sleep Of Titania And Oberon' By Edward William Wyon (1811-1885)



650 EUR

Signature : Edward William Wyon (1811-1885)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Marble

Length : 30,5

Height : 30,5

Depth : 4,5

Description

A circular marble sculpture in high relief, "The Sleep of Titania and Oberon," framed and signed "EW Wyon dest. & sculpt 1st Jan 1848," for Edward William Wyon (1811-1885). The reverse bears a bronze medal from the Great Exhibition of 1862 in London at the Crystal Palace. See description below. Giltwood frame. Good overall condition. Second half of the 19th century. Frame dimensions: H 30.5 x W 30.5 x D 4.5 cm; medallion diameter: 19 cm. The subject of the medallion is inspired by "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a comedy written around 1595 by William Shakespeare, which blends love, magic, and the fairy world. The work depicts the fairy rulers, Titania and Oberon, whose quarrel disrupts the natural order. Taking advantage of Titania's sleep, Oberon casts a spell that makes

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her fall in love with a grotesque creature, before the enchantment is broken and harmony is restored. The theme of sleep plays a crucial role, symbolizing transformation, illusion, and the boundary between dream and reality. This subject experienced a resurgence in popularity in the mid-19th century, within the context of Romanticism, which rediscovered Shakespeare and celebrated his poetic genius. The medallion is part of the work of the English sculptor Edward William Wyon (1811-1885), from a prominent family of engravers and medalists. Trained at the Royal Academy in London, he developed a neoclassical style and a taste for literary subjects. He created several compositions inspired by Shakespeare, notably featuring Titania and Oberon, translating into marble the poetic and fantastical aesthetic so fashionable in the 19th century. Some of his works have a remarkable feature: the insertion of a bronze medal on the reverse. This original technique, inherited from his family's tradition of medal making, serves as both a signature and a mark of authenticity. ****

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