



Bust Of The Marquis De La Fayette By Jean-antoine Houdon



9 700 EUR

Signature : Jean-Antoine Houdon

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

Bust of the Marquis de La Fayette in patinated bronze, resting on a white marble pedestal base (later). Signed and dated under the right arm "Houdon an 1790". Nineteenth-century work from the original 1790 marble in the Château de Versailles. Total height: 72 cm Bronze height: 56 cm Width: 52 cm La Fayette, who died aged 73 on May 20, 1834, was one of the last actors of 1789. Honored but controversial by his contemporaries, he was considered a hero of the American and French revolutions, and a defender and a lifelong defender of liberty, equality and human rights. La Fayette was enlisted as a member of George Washington's staff, and found in him a lifelong mentor and friend. On December 17, 1781, in gratitude for his victory at Yorktown

Dealer

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Yorktown, the Virginia legislature "unanimously resolved to make a bust of the Marquis de La Fayette in Paris, of the finest marble used for the purpose, and to present it to the Marquis", and that an agent "employ a suitable person in Paris to execute the above bust". Thomas Jefferson strongly influenced Houdon's choice for this prestigious commission. On July 14, 1790, Houdon was commissioned by the Paris National Guard to commission a marble portrait of La Fayette in his National Guard uniform. The National Guard uniform, cleverly half-opened over a knotted t-shirt collar, head turned slightly to the right, the model wearing a wig with rollers.