



Pair Of Gilded Bronze Vases On Malachite Bases, Imperial Russian Manufacture, 19th Century



12 000 EUR

Signature : Russia

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 41

Depth : 14

Description

A rare and monumental pair of mercury-gilded bronze krater vases, Russian-made, first quarter of the 19th century. The urns, of imposing size and extraordinary casting quality, rest on pedestals inlaid with Ural malachite, a stone emblematic of Russian imperial decorative production, characterized by its unmistakable intense green veined with black. The fire gilding with mercury amalgam--a technique typical of the great Russian bronze work of the era--reveals a warm, uniform luster that is still perfectly preserved, a testament to the exceptionally high technical standard of the St. Petersburg and Moscow workshops active under Alexander I and Nicholas I. The body of the vases is enlivened by a rich decorative repertoire of acanthus leaves, vegetal volutes, and masks, crowned by an

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ovoline frieze along the upper rim; the handles consist of intertwined swans, a typically Russian motif of neoclassical origin, which lend the ensemble an elegance of rare refinement. The malachite pedestals are embellished with gilded bronze plaques depicting allegories of Asia and Europe, a programmatic reference to Russia's geographical position straddling the two continents, a recurring iconographic motif in Russian imperial art. Chiseled bronze moldings and friezes complete the bases, featuring foliage borders and classical motifs.