



Small Santibelli From Marseille By Mercier, Depicting A Holy Woman - Restoration Period,



650 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Terracotta

Width : 12 cm

Height : 30 cm

Description

A charming Marseille santibelli made of molded and polychrome terracotta, depicting a standing holy woman dressed in a long, heavily pleated gown accented with gilding. The figure rests on a polychrome molded base in shades of green and red, characteristic of these popular early 19th-century pieces. The delicately modeled face, the wavy hair framing the eyes, and the remnants of the original polychrome paint lend this sculpture all the gentleness and charm of Provençal religious imagery. This example has a particularly interesting size: at 30 cm tall, it is smaller than the typical Marseilles santibelli, which are generally around 40 cm in height. Provençal work from the period of restoration, circa 1815-1830. Signs of wear, scuffing, and small losses of polychrome paint

Dealer

Mémoires d'un âne

Antiquités-décorations

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consistent with the piece's age. About Marseille
santibelli The word "santibelli" comes from the
Provençal phrase *santi belli*, meaning "beautiful
saints." Produced mainly in Marseille between the
18th and 19th centuries, these religious statuettes
made of molded terracotta were hand-painted and
then sold at fairs, markets, and pilgrimages.
Intended for domestic devotion, they allowed
families to adorn their homes with devotional
images at a modest cost. Today, these artifacts of
Provençal popular faith are sought after for their
authenticity, their expressive character, and the
richness of their polychromatic colors.