



Important Pair Of Louis XVI-style "torchères" In Ormolu, France, C. 1880



77 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 48 cm

Height : 198 cm

Depth : 48 cm

Description

Provenance

This pair of large floor-standing torchères was made in France in the second half of the 19th century, circa 1880. The French term "torchère" refers to a tall standing candelabrum designed to hold candlelight at an elevated level within a formal interior. Objects of this type were traditionally commissioned for the most refined residences, private mansions, reception rooms, galleries, entrance halls and ceremonial staircases. Their role was not only practical. They also had an important representative function, contributing to the staging of the interior and reflecting the status, taste and social position of the owner.

Description

The two torchères are designed in the Louis XVI

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style, with a tall, architectural and symmetrical composition. Each piece rests on a richly ornamented tripod base ending in lion-paw feet. The lower section is decorated with hanging garlands, leafy mounts, scrolls and vegetal ornaments rendered in strong relief. The central shaft is slender and openwork, composed of straight uprights, decorative panels, applied floral ornaments and reserves with trophy motifs. The overall design remains clear and balanced, avoiding excessive heaviness while retaining a very refined decorative presence.

The upper section is formed by a large arrangement of candle branches. Each torchère is designed for nine candles. The curved arms, decorated with foliage, twisted stems and vegetal details, surround a central vase with acanthus decoration. The top is crowned by a floral and fruit composition in gilt bronze, modelled in pronounced relief. The relationship between architectural structure, classical ornament and naturalistic decoration is characteristic of the Louis XVI vocabulary as interpreted in high-quality French decorative arts of the late 19th century.

The richness of the decoration can be seen throughout the details: suspended garlands, rosettes, mobile rings, stylised pine-cone finials, beaded friezes, gadrooned mouldings, acanthus leaves, trophy motifs and lion-paw feet. The bronzes have a strong three-dimensional quality, with finely chased passages and generous volumes. Despite their large scale, the torchères preserve an elegant and controlled silhouette.

They do not appear overloaded, but rather architectural, noble and well proportioned.

Technique and materials

The torchères are made of gilt bronze. The quality of the casting, chasing and assembly indicates a high level of decorative craftsmanship. The applied ornaments, garlands, candle arms, floral reliefs and base decorations show careful attention to modelling and finish. The gilding, described as original, retains a fine visual

brilliance and enhances the contrast between polished surfaces, matte areas, chased details and projecting relief ornaments.

Dating

France, second half of the 19th century, circa 1880. The dating corresponds to the renewed interest in major French classical models during this period. The Louis XVI style is visible in the symmetrical structure, the use of garlands, trophy ornaments, rosettes, beaded friezes, lion-paw feet and acanthus decoration.

Condition

Very good overall condition. The gilding is original and remains in excellent condition, with a strong decorative presence. The surfaces show the light traces of age and use expected for an object of this period. The pair appears complete, stable and coherent, with a fine visual harmony between the two pieces.

Function and display

These torchères are intended for a high-quality interior: entrance hall, gallery, formal salon, grand staircase, library, reception room or refined commercial space. With their height of 198 cm and their gilt bronze decoration, they create a strong presence without excessive ornamentation. In person, the visual effect is particularly striking, due to their verticality, the richness of the gilded bronze and the light carried by the nine candles of each torchère.

Dimensions

height - 198 cm

width / depth of the base - 48 cm