



18th Century Nevers Faience "virgin Of Childbirth"



380 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Height : 27 cm

Description

Stemming from a popular tradition in the 18th and 19th centuries, the "Virgin of Childbirth"

(*Vierge d'accouchée*) is a faience statuette depicting the Virgin

Mary.

It was intended to protect the new mother as childbirth approached. The statuette was placed at the expectant mother's bedside, and a candle was set into the hollow of her crown and lit--signaling the start of labor. The candle was meant to burn until the child was born, marking the "normal" duration of the delivery.

This tradition originated in Quimper,

Dealer

Gérardin

Antiquaire Expert de Père en Fils Depuis 1949

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in the heart of a deeply devout Brittany, before
spreading to Auxerre
and Nevers.

The polychrome statuette presented here
comes from the Nevers faience workshops and
features a blue and
yellow palette: the yellow adorning the crown
represents royal gold.

Yellow is also used for her mantle, while
blue--the color of the
Virgin Mary--decorates her gown with stylized
flowers.

The skin tones of Jesus and Mary are
left in the milky, pearly white of the faience itself.
Although modern times have largely
forgotten this tradition in favor of safer medical
care for expectant
mothers, it is heartwarming to think that, from
their museum display
cases, these little statuettes continue to watch
over the birth of
children.

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France - Nevers

Polychrome faience

18th century