



Pair Of Empire-style Bronze Candlesticks Decorated With Gilded Sphinxes, Milo Martin, Switzerland,



250 EUR

Signature : Milo Martin (1893-1970)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 22,50 cm

Description

This pair of patinated bronze candlesticks is a typical example of the French Empire style, which developed in the early 19th century during Napoleon's reign. The sphinx, a mythological creature combining the strength of a lion with the wisdom of a man, was one of the most popular motifs of this period. This fascination was fueled by the French military campaign in Egypt, which gave rise to the movement known as the "Return from Egypt" in European decorative arts. The candlesticks were crafted in the classical tradition, with the sphinxes depicted with outstretched wings and a feminine torso. They support a candleholder shaped like an ancient capital, adorned with stylized palm or acanthus leaves. Although the design draws inspiration from the early 19th century, these high-quality

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cast pieces remained very popular throughout the century and experienced a resurgence in popularity during the Second Empire (1852-1870) as well as during the Art Deco period (1920-1940). This version of the famous "Sphinx" candlesticks dates from the first half of the 20th century and bears the artist's signature. Both candlesticks are stamped with the mark "Bronze Garanti Paris J.B. Déposée," certifying that they were manufactured in Paris by Jourdan & Bonnefoy. About the artist: Milo Martin (1893-1970) was a highly respected Swiss neoclassical sculptor and medalist. Born in Morges, the son of an engraver, he trained in wood and stone sculpture at a very early age; then, after brief studies in Geneva, Rome, and Florence, he decided to forge his own artistic path, setting himself apart from the emerging abstract movements of the time. In his studio in Lausanne, he created countless refined torsos, figures of athletes, and commemorative medals that earned him international renown. The absolute highlight of his career was winning the silver medal for sculpture in 1928. Upon his death in 1970, he left behind a considerable body of work consisting of monumental public sculptures scattered around Lake Geneva.