



Silver-plated Virgin Of El Pilar, Hallmarked In Aladren (zaragoza), 19th Century



1 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Silver metal

Height : 65 cm alto

Description

Dimensions: 65 cm tall. Our Lady of the Pilar is one of the oldest and most revered Marian titles in Spain and Latin America. According to tradition, on January 2, A.D. 40, the Virgin Mary appeared to the Apostle James on the banks of the Ebro River in Zaragoza to encourage him in his work of evangelization at a time when he was feeling discouraged. The Virgin appeared on a pillar or column, a symbol that gave this title its name and around which the famous shrine in Zaragoza was later built. This event is considered by Christian tradition to be the first bilocation in the history of the Church and gave rise to a devotion that, over the centuries, has spread throughout the world. The Aladrén jewelry store, located at No. 25 Alfonso I Street in Zaragoza, was one of the city's most remarkable luxury establishments at

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the end of the 19th century. The building was designed in 1885 by the architect Luis Aladrén Mendivil, at the initiative of Mariano Baselga, who wished to create a store in keeping with the tastes and aspirations of the new Zaragoza bourgeoisie. The establishment stood out for its meticulous artistic and ornamental design, featuring a corner facade conceived as a veritable urban showcase. Its display windows were framed by decorative panels of embossed and gold-plated silver, adorned with plant motifs, while the main entrance and the imposing metal canopy featuring a clock reinforced the store's elegant and prestigious character. Beyond its architectural value, the Aladrén jewelry store has gained great prestige as a center dedicated to the creation of high-quality gold and silverwork and jewelry, thus becoming a benchmark for luxury craftsmanship in Zaragoza. It is within this context that we should place the creation of the Virgin of El Pilar, the subject of this study--a piece that reflects the Aragonese devotional tradition combined with the technical and artistic excellence of the Aladrén workshop. Its hallmark serves as a guarantee of origin and links the work to one of the most important jewelry establishments in Zaragoza during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.