



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Pair Of Blue John And Gilded Bronze Bowls, Attributed To Pierre-philippe Thomire



15 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 15

Width : 15

Height : 41

Description

A refined and impressive pair of neoclassical cassiole vases in Blue John and finely chiseled, mercury-gilded bronze, attributable to the renowned workshop of Pierre-Philippe Thomire (1751-1843), one of the greatest bronze casters of the Empire period and a leading supplier to the Napoleonic court. The vases are distinguished by the extraordinary quality of the Blue John, one of the rarest and most sought-after ornamental stones in the world, quarried exclusively from the historic quarries of Castleton, in Derbyshire, England. The stone displays an exceptional play of color, characterized by deep violet hues that fade into milky, crystalline veins, with a natural translucency that lends the piece an elegance of rare intensity. The gilded bronze setting attests to craftsmanship of the highest order. The

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exceptional finesse of the chiseling is evident in every detail: the upper rim decorated with an ovoline motif, the elegant volute handles, the richly ornamented lower body adorned with acanthus leaves, and, above all, the exquisitely delicate frieze composed of vine tendrils, grape clusters, and naturalistic leaves that runs beneath the upper rim. This frieze represents a true feat of craftsmanship, with elements modeled and chiseled with extreme precision and delicacy--qualities found exclusively in the finest Parisian works of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The piece as a whole perfectly embodies the French Neoclassical style, in which balanced proportions, the richness of the materials, and the perfection of the craftsmanship come together to create a work of extraordinary elegance and prestige. Given the quality of the craftsmanship, the refinement of the bronzes, and the choice of materials, the pair can reasonably be attributed to the workshop of Pierre-Philippe Thomire, the undisputed master of the art of gilded bronze. Dimensions: Height 41 cm; base 14.5 × 14.5 cm.