



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Pair Of 19th-century Empire-style Wall Sconces



3 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 10 cm

Height : 25 cm

Depth : 10 cm

Description

Royal Antique is proud to present this remarkable pair of French candlesticks from the Directoire period, a refined creation that perfectly exemplifies the understated elegance and classical inspiration characteristic of French decorative arts from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Crafted with exceptional skill, these candlesticks harmoniously combine patinated bronze with finely gilded bronze, offering a subtle contrast that highlights the richness of their decoration and the remarkable quality of their craftsmanship. Resting on a circular, stepped base-carefully composed of several concentric bands of patinated bronze and gilded bronze-each candlestick strikes a perfect balance between stability and elegance. The architectural simplicity of the base reflects the spirit of the

Dealer

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Directoire style, which emphasizes clean lines inspired by antiquity while maintaining a wealth of ornamental detail. The slender, finely chiseled shaft is adorned with delicate neoclassical motifs executed in gilded bronze. The various sections are punctuated by refined moldings, foliage garlands, and elegant floral motifs that attest to the remarkable craftsmanship of the French bronze artisans of that era. The contrast between the gilded surfaces and the bronze's dark patina creates a sophisticated play of light that accentuates the depth of the reliefs and highlights the delicacy of every detail. The most striking feature of this pair is undoubtedly the delicate female bust sculpted in patinated bronze, positioned directly beneath the candlestick base. Depicted with great finesse, this classical figure wears a hairstyle typical of the Directoire period, inspired by ancient models that were then very much in vogue. Her serene expression, the quality of her modeling, and the precision of the details illustrate the era's taste for ideal beauty and references to ancient Greece and Rome. The gilded bronze lampshade is richly decorated with finely chiseled acanthus leaves, an emblematic motif of classical architecture and the decorative arts. At its base, an elegant frieze of patinated bronze roses provides a refined contrast in texture and color, enhancing the delicacy of the composition. Further down, the decoration continues with a harmonious arrangement of foliage, garlands, and floral motifs executed with remarkable precision, offering a perfect balance between simplicity and decorative richness. The combination of gilded bronze and patinated bronze is one of the most captivating aesthetic hallmarks of this pair. The warm luminosity of the gilding interacts with the depth of the antique patina, creating an elegant contrast that highlights the quality of the materials as well as the excellence of the chasing and gilding techniques employed by French workshops. Rooted in the artistic tradition of the Directoire style, these candlesticks reflect a pivotal period in the history

of French decorative arts, during which the influence of Antiquity was expressed through balanced compositions, harmonious proportions, and masterful ornamentation. As an heir to the Louis XVI style, the Directoire aesthetic already foreshadows the aesthetics of the Consulate and the Empire periods while retaining a discreet and timeless elegance. Beyond their function as lighting fixtures, these candlesticks are true works of art designed to enhance the most refined interiors. Placed on a mantelpiece, a console table, a pedestal table, or a bookcase, they immediately lend a distinguished presence and an atmosphere imbued with prestige. Their slender silhouette, the quality of their carving, and the subtlety of their contrasts make them decorative objects of rare elegance. This exceptional pair of candlesticks now represents a rare opportunity for collectors and connoisseurs of French decorative arts. Thanks to their remarkable state of preservation, the quality of their craftsmanship, and their timeless aesthetic, they stand as a precious testament to the expertise of French bronze casters from the Directoire period and will naturally find their place in a major antique collection or within an exceptional classical interior.