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Pair Of Napoleon III-era Candelabras



5 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 43 cm

Height : 62 cm

Depth : 43 cm

Description

Royal Antique is delighted to present this magnificent pair of French candelabra from the Napoléon III period, an exceptional creation that perfectly embodies the grandeur, elegance, and refined taste characteristic of the Second Empire. These remarkable 19th-century decorative art pieces reflect the extraordinary craftsmanship of French artisans of the era, a period when the pursuit of beauty, luxurious materials, and richly ornamented interiors reached an exceptional level of sophistication. This distinguished pair perfectly captures the eclectic spirit of the Napoléon III style, which drew inspiration from the great historical styles of the past while reinterpreting them through a more theatrical, opulent, and luxurious approach. The harmonious combination of patinated bronze, finely gilded bronze, and

Dealer

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precious malachite creates a composition of remarkable elegance, where each material contributes to the richness and prestige of the overall design. Each candelabrum is crowned with a graceful patinated bronze figure depicting a young boy or putto, delicately modelled with exceptional attention to detail. These charming figures introduce a sculptural and poetic element to the composition. Presented with a sense of movement and elegance, they hold aloft cornucopia-shaped elements from which the candle branches emerge, creating a perfectly balanced design filled with dynamism and refinement. The delicate modelling of the figures, the carefully rendered expressions, and the finely sculpted details demonstrate the exceptional skill of the French sculptors and bronze craftsmen of the 19th century. The richly decorated gilt bronze elements, also known as ormolu mounts, represent one of the most remarkable features of this pair. Finely cast and meticulously chased, they display an exquisite ornamental vocabulary composed of scrolling acanthus leaves, elegant vegetal motifs, and refined floral details. These decorative elements appear throughout the composition, surrounding the figures, adorning the upper sections of the pedestals, and enhancing the structure with a magnificent play of light and shadow across the gilded surfaces. The floral ornamentation forms a central element of the design. Elaborate stylised flowers in gilt bronze, reminiscent of roses and lilies, emerge gracefully from darker patinated bronze branches. This striking contrast between the luminous brilliance of the gilding and the deep tones of the patinated bronze creates a sophisticated visual effect. The naturalistic treatment of the flowers adds a sense of delicacy and refinement, enhancing the luxurious character of the candelabra while reflecting the 19th-century fascination with botanical motifs in decorative arts. The substantial malachite bases are among the most prestigious elements of this exceptional pair. This semi-precious stone, admired since antiquity for

its intense green colour and unique natural veining, was highly prized during the 19th century for the creation of the most luxurious decorative objects. The impressive malachite plinths provide a striking contrast with the gilded bronze mounts, further emphasizing the richness and exclusivity of these candelabra. Each base rests upon an elegant gilt bronze pedestal decorated with a fine beaded border, adding an architectural quality and a perfectly balanced finishing touch. The entire composition reflects the distinctive aesthetic of the Second Empire, the period between 1852 and 1870, when French decorative arts experienced extraordinary development under the reign of Emperor Napoléon III and Empress Eugénie. Interiors of this era were designed to express grandeur, comfort, and sophistication, combining references to classical antiquity, Renaissance influences, Louis XV and Louis XVI styles, as well as more exotic inspirations. These candelabra perfectly illustrate the period's fascination with luxury and artistic display, bringing together figurative sculpture, precious materials, and highly refined ornamentation. The presence of the graceful putti, the abundance of floral motifs, the richness of the ormolu decoration, and the rarity of the malachite create a decorative ensemble designed for the most prestigious interiors. Beyond their original function as lighting objects, these candelabra are true collector's pieces, capable of transforming any interior through their majestic presence. They would make a distinguished addition to an elegant salon, a historic library, a grand reception room, or an important collection devoted to 19th-century French decorative arts. Combining exceptional craftsmanship, a rare and luxurious combination of materials, and an aesthetic that perfectly represents the Napoléon III period, this pair of candelabra constitutes a remarkable example of French artistic excellence. Perfectly matched and possessing extraordinary decorative impact, they represent a prestigious acquisition for discerning collectors and lovers of exceptional

historical objects.