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Étienne Henri Dumaige (1830-1888) The Musicians



92 000 EUR

Signature : Étienne Henri DUMAIGE (1830-1888)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 160 cm

Description

A monumental pair of bronze sculptures with a triple patina--light brown, dark brown, and gold--signed by Dumaige. Circa 1870. Height of the sculptures without the columns: 160 cm. Note: The columns have been sold! Description This sumptuous pair of bronze sculptures is the work of the French academic sculptor Étienne Henri Dumaige, an artist active in the second half of the 19th century. A student of Auguste Dumont and Jean-Jacques Feuchère, Dumaige exhibited regularly at the Salon beginning in 1863. His work follows the neoclassical and historicist style that was very much in vogue during the Second Empire. The two life-size female figures represent musical allegories: one holds a triangle, while the other plays cymbals. Draped in the classical style in tunics that are both light and skillfully

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modeled, they embody ideal beauty according to academic canons, combining restrained sensuality with spiritual elevation. Their graceful posture, the haughty tilt of their heads, and their gentle yet focused expressions underscore their symbolic nature: they are not merely musicians, but personifications of musical and rhythmic art. Here, Dumaige demonstrates perfect mastery of bronze sculpture: the drapery is rendered with remarkable virtuosity, while the details--bracelets, sandals, and instruments--are highlighted in gilded bronze, creating a refined contrast with the brown patina.

Biography Étienne-Henri Dumaige (1830-1888) was a leading 19th-century French sculptor, renowned for the finesse, elegance, and precision of his works. Born in Paris, he trained in the studios of the great masters of his time, including Jean-Jacques Feuchère and Christophe Dumont, who influenced his refined and expressive style. He exhibited regularly at the prestigious Salon des Artistes Français from 1863 to 1886 and received a second medal in 1880 for his acclaimed works. Dumaige excelled in bronze, marble, and plaster, creating allegorical groups, historical figures, and portraits imbued with movement and sensitivity. He also fulfilled public commissions, producing sculptures for monuments and important buildings, while continuing to create smaller collectible pieces. His work combines an academic spirit with neoclassical and historicist influences, capturing the grace, strength, and expressiveness of his subjects. Étienne-Henri Dumaige passed away in 1888 in Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, leaving behind a rich artistic legacy, appreciated for its technical virtuosity and timeless beauty.