



"bacchanale," A Bronze Sculpture Signed "clodion"



19 000 EUR

Signature : Clodion

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 62

Description

This bronze group, signed "Clodion," refers to the work of the French sculptor Claude Michel, known as Clodion (1738-1814), a major figure in late 18th-century sculpture. A student of Lambert-Sigisbert Adam and winner of the Prix de Rome, Clodion is distinguished by his penchant for mythological and bacchanalian subjects, rendered with a sensuality and dynamism characteristic of the late Rococo style. The scene depicted here is entirely in keeping with this tradition: a bacchanal, a recurring theme in Clodion's work, in which youthful figures, satyrs, and nymphs mingle in a swirling composition. Inspired by the processions of Bacchus, god of wine and intoxication, these scenes celebrate nature, pleasure, and a certain freedom of the body. The composition, dense yet legible,

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rests on a subtleplay of balance and counterpoint, characteristic of Clodion's aesthetic. The supple and vibrant modeling, combined with a pursuit of grace and lightness, gives the work as a whole an almost painterly quality. The entwined poses and the liveliness of the movement reflect the influence of Antiquity, rediscovered in the 18th century, while retaining a decorative grace that is distinctly French. The base, adorned with friezes of putti and neoclassical motifs, reinforces the work's refined and decorative character. It reflects the 19th-century taste for works inspired by the 18th century, intended for bourgeois and aristocratic clientele seeking elegance and scholarly references. Thus, this group illustrates both the direct legacy of Clodion and the enduring success of his aesthetic, blending classical grace, sensuality, and decorative virtuosity.