



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Baccarat, Neo-greek Pendant, France, Circa 1860



6 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Diameter : 28

Height : 100

Description

(Attributed to) Beautiful white opaline pendant lamp with polychrome decoration inspired by the Neo-Greek style. The rounded bowl, with a flared neckcut into pointed festoons and accented with a turquoise border, tapers toward the bottom to form a bell-shaped base adorned with turquoise leaves, resting in a gilded bronze cup that ends in a spinning top shape. It is adorned with a central medallion featuring an antique-style female profile reminiscent of a cameo, framed by an orange Greek fret frieze, encircled by a wide band of black Greek frets on a turquoise background. It is suspended by three baluster-shaped double rods from a gilded bronze ceiling fixture adorned with foliage motifs. This pendant is a fine example of the virtuosity of mid-19th-century glass manufacturers (such as Baccarat, Saint-Louis, or

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other Parisian workshops specializing in opaline). The use of light--the opaline becoming translucent and glowing when illuminated from within--enhances the decor. The piece reflects a "reinvented" style of antiquity--colorful and theatrical--typical of the taste in bourgeois and aristocratic interiors of the Napoleonic period.

Biography The famous Baccarat crystal glassworks, whose origins date back to the 18th century, won its first gold medal at the 1823 Exhibition of Industrial Products, where it was praised for "the brilliance and finesse of the crystal" and became France's leading crystal manufacturer. Baccarat was undoubtedly the only French industry at the time that was consistently and masterfully represented at the various exhibitions in which it participated, thereby winning honors and prestigious awards. A key phrase, "the perfection of the material and the cut," recurs in all the reports from the World's Fairs between 1855 and 1867, where the Baccarat crystal factory stood out for the quality of its crystal, deemed superior to that of Bohemia and England. To retain the loyalty of its wealthy clientele--which, of course, included members of the Royal Family--Baccarat had to discover and launch new trends, new designs, and new materials.