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19th-century Bronze Sculpture Depicting Minerva--signed Dumaige



1 400 EUR

Signature : Étienne-Henri Dumaige

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 60cm

Description

A 19th-century bronze sculpture depicting Minerva, the classical goddess of wisdom, the art of war, and strategy, executed in the academic style characteristic of the French sculptor Étienne-Henri Dumaige (Paris, 1830-1888). The monumental and elegantly designed figure stands in a refined contrapposto pose and is clad in a rich classical drapery whose carefully rendered folds follow the contours of the body, creating a strong sense of movement and depth. With her right hand, Minerva holds her cloak, while her left hand rests on a shield that is partially supported by a low pedestal. On her head, she wears a particularly finely crafted Corinthian helmet, crowned by an elegant, fantastical winged creature, emphasizing the goddess's warrior and protective symbolism. Her serene, classical facial

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features are characteristic of the idealized formal language of 19th-century French academic sculpture. The bronze features a magnificent, deep, and warm patina, with subtle lighter, polished accents on the skin and raised areas. This patina particularly highlights the refined modeling of the face, hair, and clothing, as well as the decorative details of the helmet and shield. The sculpture is clearly signed "Dumaige" on the bronze base and can be traced back to the tradition of high-quality French bronze sculpture from the second half of the 19th century. Étienne-Henri Dumaige was a French sculptor born in Paris who trained under the influence of renowned masters such as Jean-Jacques Feuchère and Christophe Dumont. Beginning in the 1860s, he exhibited regularly at the Paris Salon and remained active there for much of his career. His body of work included sculptures, busts, and allegorical and historical figures, notably in bronze, marble, and plaster. Dumaige created both freestanding sculptures and decorative works, as well as larger-scale public commissions. Notably, he created sculptures for Paris City Hall and a marble statue of Rabelais for the city of Tours. For the Parisian foundry Houdebine, he also designed monumental caryatids in the form of female figures. In 1880, he received a second medal at the Salon, a significant distinction in the French art world of the time. (Père-Lachaise Cemetery - APPL)