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French Empire Gilt-bronze Chariot Clock With Amor, Courvoisier à Paris, Circa 1805-1815



8 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 48

Width : 51

Diameter : 15

Description

A very beautiful and particularly decorative French Empire-period pendulum clock, circa 1805-1815, with a dial signed Courvoisier in Paris. The composition, remarkably dynamic, depicts Cupid driving a triumphal chariot pulled by two spirited horses. The winged figure balances above the chariot, holding the reins with both hands, while the horses are depicted in full motion. The contrast between the patinated bronze of the horses and the rich gilding of the chariot and the figure creates the spectacular polychrome effect so characteristic of the finest Parisian bronzes of the Empire period. The horses, which are particularly finely modeled, retain their remarkable porcelain eyes, an unusual and sought-after detail that lends the entire piece a striking expressiveness. The chariot is

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sumptuously adorned with classical and fantastical motifs, notably a winged creature reminiscent of a dragon, finely chiseled, whose long, sinuous tail unfurls across the body of the chariot. The movement is ingeniously integrated into one of the chariot's wheels. The ring-shaped white enamel dial with Roman numerals surrounds an openwork center revealing the mechanism, framed by six finely chiseled gilded bronze spokes. The dial bears the signature Courvoisier in Paris. The entire piece rests on a substantial rectangular base made of gilded bronze. Its front is adorned with an exceptional mythological bas-relief depicting a lively procession of chariots, horses, classical figures, and winged putti moving amid stylized waves and clouds. This particularly rich decoration lends the clock a character that is both monumental and theatrical. Resting on elegant turned and chiseled feet, this clock masterfully combines sculpture, mythology, and the art of clockmaking in a composition emblematic of French taste during the First Empire. A sophisticated and visually spectacular example of early 19th-century Parisian decorative arts. Dimensions: Height: 48 cm Width: 51 cm Depth: 15 cm