



Set Of Four Hexagonal Bronze And Glass Lanterns, Louis XV Style, French, Circa 1950



7 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 28.5

Width : 24.4

Height : 54.5

Description

Few objects anchor a French interior as effectively as a set of matched bronze lanterns. These four hexagonal examples -- each measuring twenty-eight centimetres across and rising to fifty-four centimetres in height -- possess the proportions and presence that such fixtures require. Their six-sided form follows the standard established by the great French bronziers of the eighteenth century, whose lanterns were designed to be suspended from the vaulted ceilings of hôtels particuliers and châteaux; the glass panels diffuse the light in all directions, casting an even, warm illumination that fills a space without harsh shadows. As a set of four, they are capable of transforming an entrance hall, gallery, or covered courtyard into a space of genuine grandeur. The Louis XV style -- characterised by the sinuous

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curves of the rocaille, the asymmetric ornament, and the rejection of the strict geometric authority of the preceding Louis XIV period -- enjoyed a powerful revival in the decorative arts of the first half of the twentieth century. French bronziers and decorating houses produced pieces in this idiom for a clientèle that associated it with the particular elegance of the Ancien Régime.

Lanterns of this type were made for the grandest hôtels of Paris, for the châteaux of the nobility and haute bourgeoisie, and for the great country houses across France. A set of four matching lanterns in good original condition is a rare find: sets of this scale were frequently dispersed, and the surviving pairs or singles that appear on the market represent only a fraction of what was originally made. These examples, in excellent condition with their original bronze patina and glass panels intact, represent an exceptional opportunity for the buyer seeking to furnish a formal interior or to re-create the ambiance of a French classical residence. They may be hung individually in each room or grouped together for maximum effect in a single grand space.