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G. Denière, Centerpiece, France, Circa 1850



14 000 EUR

Signature : G. Denière

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Diameter : 55

Height : 78

Description

An imposing centerpiece with a double patina characteristic of the stylistic eclecticism of the decorative arts during the Second Empire. The piece rests on a wide, multilobed, molded, stepped bronze base with a dark patina. This base supports a mighty bronze pedestal, richly gilded, whose ornamental repertoire draws directly from the Rocaille style. It is lavishly adorned with acanthus leaves, powerful volutes, clasps, and, reflecting chiseling of great depth. The transition to the upper section is marked by a central knot against which rest patinated bronze putti. The shaft culminates in an architectural hexagonal capital, adorned with round cabochons. It supports a lush cluster of light arms. These arms are vigorously scroll-cut and sculpted with foliage scrolls. They terminate in

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finials and gilded bronze lampshades, delicately chased with plant motifs, creating a final luminous highlight at the top of the work. The electrical wiring was added later. Biography Guillaume Denière (Paris, 1815-1903) was a student of the famous ornamentalist Aimé Chenavard (1798-1838) and of architect Henri Labrousse (1801-1875). In 1844, Denière succeeded his father, who had been established since 1804, at 15 rue Vivienne in Paris. The business was then very prosperous, and four hundred workers were employed to fulfill the numerous orders from King Louis-Philippe and the upper middle class. He produced bronze furnishings, candelabra, clocks, and table centerpieces. He collaborated with numerous artists, including Carrier-Belleuse (1848-1913) and Constant Sévin (1821-1888). He delivered several clocks (Génie of the Arts, Reader, and Dog) for the Tuileries Palace in 1852; as well as a "globe" clock with rotating dials for the Grand Salon of the Château de Bagatelle. His centerpieces, characterized by a fluid yet vigorous style, as evidenced by the mantelpiece for the Duke of Orléans (1842), were hailed by critics at the time. His works were frequently recognized at the World's Fairs, to such an extent that Emperor Napoleon III purchased a 1867. His fame spread throughout the world. Among his most prestigious commissions, Denière delivered a spectacular bronze fireplace screen in 1854 to the Russian ambassador, Kisselef, and decorative bronze to the Viceroy of Egypt, Said Pasha, in 1862, as well as to the King of Cambodia, Norodom I (grilles for the Throne Room).