



The Flute-playing Faun - Large 18th-century Terracotta Sculpture



6 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Terracotta

Width : 50 cm

Height : 130 cm

Depth : 35 cm

Description

Faun Playing the Flute, known as the "Little Borghese Faun"; this subject, drawn from ancient Rome, was commissioned by Louis XIV from four renowned sculptors for the gardens of the Palace of Versailles. This later 18th-century example is superbly executed. Note the variation from the original models, namely the drapery covering the faun's genitals, indicating an original and likely unique work. Good condition, no missing parts, natural patina composed of lichens resulting from long-term outdoor exposure. Provenance: a collector from Bordeaux. Some sources and research notes: Sculptures in the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles Simon Hurtrelle, Faun Playing the Flute, known as the Little Borghese Faun Louvre Collections History and the role of the four

Dealer

La Galerie du Sauternais

French Antiquities

Tel : 06 89 57 32 19

10 B rue de la Tour de Mercadet

Barsac 33720

sculptors who reproduced the famous
Flute-Playing Faun: Simon Hurtrelle (1648-1724):
A native of Béthune, trained in Rome (at the
Académie de France), he was one of the official
sculptors for the major construction projects at
Versailles and Marly. His marble copy of the
Flute-Playing Faun (created between 1684 and
1686) long adorned the Parterre de Latone at
Versailles. Jean Raon (1630-1707): A seasoned
sculptor and member of the Royal Academy, he
produced a vast body of work for the gardens of
Versailles (notably statues for the Apollo Fountain
and copies of ancient works). Jean-Baptiste Goy:
Also active as part of the team of sculptors
working on the king's buildings, he created his
own version to satisfy the perfect symmetry
required in the parterres of the royal
residences. Prou (or Poultier): Another
collaborator with the royal administration, who
participated in this mass production of
masterpieces from antiquity. It is now very
difficult for art historians to trace the exact
individual history of each of these four
copies. Moved between Marly, Versailles, and the
Tuileries Palace as part of royal renovations, some
were confiscated during the Revolution.
Today, Simon Hurtrelle is still housed at the
Palace of Versailles, while other replicas from that
period have found their way into the collections of
the Louvre Museum.