



Nubian Carved, Gilded, And Polychrome Wooden Torch Holder -- Circa 1850-1870



1 750 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gilded wood

Length : 29 cm

Height : 94 cm

Depth : 18 cm

Description

A Nubian torchbearer in the Venetian style, carved from wood and decorated in gold and polychrome, depicted standing on the bow of a gondola resting on carved waves. The figure strikes a dynamic pose, with one leg bent and his face turned toward the lamp holder, which he supports with his raised left hand. The curly hair, carefully rendered individual fingers, and folds in the garment attest to the care taken in the carving. His costume is distinguished by a rich polychrome decoration on a gilded background, combining black foliage, stylized flowers, and cartouches with scalloped borders. A fine scattering of dots enlivens the gold backgrounds and evokes the texture of embroidered fabrics. This meticulous decoration continues on the figure's back and extends to the edges of his

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garments. A belt tied loosely around the hip, fringed breeches, and high boots complete his outfit. The contrast between the black sections, the gilding, and the colorful motifs emphasizes the three-dimensionality of the piece. A decorative sculpture whose presence stems as much from the movement of the figure as from the delicacy of its ornamentation. Material: carved, gilded, and polychrome wood. Condition: wear and minor losses in the gilding and polychrome paint. The object held in the right hand--presumably an oar--is missing.