Italian Empire Tripod In Painted Iron, Circa 1830-1840, Grand Tour



1 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 31 cm

Diameter : 17 cm

Height : 80,5 cm

Description

Italian Empire TripodPainted ironItaly, circa 1830-1840Height: 80.5 cm, length: 31 cm. Diameter of the top platform: 17 cm.Piece from the "Grand Tour"; a reproduction of objects discovered during 19th-century archaeological excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum.Empire-style tripod made of black-painted iron. The piece features a tall, slender structure composed of three circular legs, slightly flared toward the base and connected by an elaborate system of turned crossbars arranged at different heights. The legs terminate in large zoomorphic supports shaped like animal paws, while their upper sections feature fluted elements that provide a transition to the circular body. Resting atop this is a cylindrical receptacle crowned by a molded tray, whose understated

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form contrasts with the archaeological and ornamental character of the supports.The design of this tripod draws direct inspiration from furniture and everyday objects of Greco-Roman antiquity, the details of which have been revealed with far greater precision thanks to archaeological excavations conducted in Pompeii and Herculaneum. The ancient tripods, tables, and stands unearthed at these sites provided European artists and craftsmen with a new repertoire of forms that was widely reinterpreted between the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. The three legs ending in animal paws, the fluted elements, the slender crossbars, and the tripartite construction itself are of particular importance in this piece, as all these elements evoke Roman bronze stands. It is therefore not merely an object decorated in the classical style, but a piece deliberately designed after archaeological models that had sparked immense interest throughout Europe at the time.Made in Italy around 1830-1840, this tripod is also part of the Grand Tour phenomenon, a period during which Italy became an essential destination for European travelers, collectors, and scholars drawn to its classical heritage. The discovery and gradual dissemination of the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum spurred the production of objects inspired by the unearthed antiquities, intended both for the local market and for travelers wishing to incorporate references to the classical world into their collections. This tripod is a fine example of this 19th-century historicist production: an iron reinterpretation of ancient models, adapted to contemporary tastes and interiors while retaining a distinctly archaeological character in its design and ornamentation.