PROANTIC
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Sculpture - Diana The Hunter , Jean - Antoine Houdon (1741-1828) - Bronze



3 800 EUR

Signature : JEAN - ANTOINE HOUDON (1741-1828)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Height : 81 cm

Description

A large bronze casting with a brown patina , depicting the goddess "Diana the Huntress", based on a work by the sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon .In Roman mythology , "Diana" is the goddess of procreation , hunting , the wilderness , and the night .The daughter of "Zeus" and "Leto" and the twin sister of "Apollo" , she is associated with the Moon , in contrast to her brother , who is associated with the Sun .She is identified with the goddess "Artemis" in Greek mythology ."Diane" is depicted standing , holding her bow in one hand and her arrow in the other .Houdon justified his choice , which did not conform to the mores of the time , by saying that for him , the nudity of the gods , who have perfect bodies , was not immodest , unlike that of men .An early edition of the sculpture , dating from the late 19th century

Dealer

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.Bronze bearing the signature "HOUDON" on the naturalistic pedestal .The work aligns with the Neoclassical movement in the way the face faithfully reflects ancient ideals .The very refined , simple appearance of the piece as a whole also reflects classicism , as does the linear purity of its contours.The serenity and sincerity of the work as a whole continue to mark this return to antiquity .Height : 81 cmJean - Antoine Houdon (1741-1828)Jean - Antoine Houdon , born March 20 , 1741 in Versailles , famous French sculptor , he is one of the most important statuaries of the 18th century , renowned for the realistic rendering of his works .His father's position as concierge at the Royal School for Protected Students undoubtedly facilitated his early career .A pupil at the Royal Academy before the age of fifteen , a boarder at the Royal School for Protected Students (1761-1764), then at the French Academy in Rome (1764-1768), admitted to the Royal Academy in 1769 , he was accepted as a member in 1777 , on presentation of his Morphée (Louvre) .In 1793 , he was among the first to renounce his title and academic privileges , but was elected a member of the new Institut in 1795 , and successfully applied for the Legion of Honor in 1803 .Neither his two trips to Germany (1771 and 1773) , nor his trip to the United States (1785) , nor his marriage (1786) , nor even the turmoil of the revolution disrupted his creative activity , the most visible manifestation of which was the regularity with which he exhibited at the Salons : from 1769 to 1795 , he presented a fairly large number of sculptures every two years .Highly skilled in marble , Houdon also had a great talent for shaping clay and plaster .His work is characterized by realism and precision in the representation of bodies , particularly busts , in which he excelled and which he knew how to bring to life .According to Grimm , "Houdon was perhaps the first sculptor who knew how to model eyes" .If it were necessary to prove that it is possible to be an artist of genius while leading a perfectly ordered life , bitterly defending his

material interests and demonstrating an opportunism tempered with indifference to the political events of his time , Jean Antoine Houdon's life would be enough to prove it .