Venus And Love



2 800 EUR

Signature : Jacques Mauduit

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

An imposing clock with a rounded projection, crafted from molded white marble and chiseled, gilded bronze, depicting Venus, her body partially bare, and Cupid preparing to shoot an arrow. They are separated by a large central pillar with a stylized pedestal covered by a long drapery panel that houses the clock mechanism and upon which rests a dead bird and a twig. The panels are decorated with bas-reliefs depicting putti and, on the sides, foliage with intertwined arrows. The base is adorned with a row of pearls, a partially guilloché molding, and quatrefoils. It rests on five spinning-top-shaped feet decorated with cords and rows of pearls. The dial is signed JMauduit in PARIS. Louis XVI-era piece, circa 1780. Height: 43.5 cm / Length: 36 cm / Depth: 16.8 cm. [The bow needs repair; very minor dents, patina and

Dealer

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soiling, slight oxidation / damaged dial; movement needs servicing and/or adjustment; no key... nevertheless in good overall condition. Jacques Mauduit (1736-circa 1800) received his master's certificate on March 17, 1763. He is considered one of the most important Parisian watchmakers of the second half of the 18th century. Initially established on Rue Saint-Honoré and later on Rue Dauphine, he gained widespread renown by producing rich and varied models that perfectly exemplified the craftsmanship of Parisian watchmakers and the decorative arts. He enlisted in the army during the Revolution and attained the rank of lieutenant. He worked as a merchant in the final years of the century. Venus and Love An ancient Italic deity, Venus presides over vegetation and gardens (she is associated with Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and fertility). In antiquity, she inspired numerous depictions celebrating feminine beauty, as only gods and goddesses could be depicted nude. The subject also served as a pretext for studying the body solely for the pleasures of beauty and form. In the iconography of this theme, the branch embodies desire. When paired with a dead bird--a dove or a passerine--it symbolizes sorrow and the fragility of earthly pleasures. These birds, traditional attributes of the goddess, embody gentleness, fidelity, or passionate love. Depicting them lifeless signifies that carnal love and physical beauty are merely fleeting. As for Cupid (Eros), the god of love and master of intrigue in this realm, he reminds us that human passions bring as much torment as they do joy, and that they are subject to the passage of time...