Cupid Writing - Large Biscuit Porcelain Sculpture Signed Boizot, Attributed To Villenauxe



520 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Biscuit

Description

An important sculptural group in white biscuit porcelain depicting Cupid writing, an elegant allegorical composition inspired by the French sculpture of the second half of the 18th century.The young winged god is depicted seated upon flowing drapery, with one leg bent and the other extended. His finely modeled, wavy hair is held in place by a ribbon tied at the back of his head. With his head gently inclined and an expression of tenderness and concentration, Cupid holds a stylus in his right hand, while his left hand supports several sheets of paper resting on his knee.Beside him stands a pedestal partially covered with drapery, featuring a sundial with finely incised hour lines and Roman numerals, complete with its metal gnomon.A dove with partially spread wings accompanies Cupid,

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seemingly awaiting the message it may be entrusted to deliver. His quiver, filled with finely detailed feathered arrows and adorned with a twisted cord ending in tassels, rests upon the oval base.Cupid has momentarily set aside his weapons to devote himself to writing. The various attributes lend the composition a poetic and symbolic dimension: the dove evokes tenderness and fidelity, the written message expresses affection, while the sundial recalls the inevitable passage of time. Together, these elements may be interpreted as an allegory of enduring love despite the passing of time.The quality of execution is particularly evident in the refined anatomical modeling, the delicate facial expression, the intricate treatment of the hair and feathers, and the natural folds of the drapery. Fully modeled in the round, the sculpture offers a harmonious composition from every angle. The soft, matte finish of the unglazed porcelain beautifully recalls the appearance of carved white marble.Known as Cupid Writing, this composition was also reproduced in marble and adapted for decorative clocks. A particularly closely related example, executed in Carrara marble in the late 19th century, features a clock dial in place of the sundial and is documented by Galerie Marc Maison as being after a model attributed to Jean-Baptiste Pigalle (1714-1785).Our example bears the impressed signature "Boizot" on the base, referring to Louis-Simon Boizot (1743-1809), sculptor to the King, winner of the Grand Prix for sculpture in 1762, and director of the sculpture workshop at the Royal Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory from 1773.A prominent figure of French Neoclassicism, Boizot contributed extensively to the development of the manufactory's sculptural repertoire through his numerous mythological and allegorical compositions intended for production in biscuit porcelain.Adjacent to the signature is a blue-painted mark resembling a stylized crowned V. This mark, together with the impressed production references beneath the base and the

inscription "Made in France," suggests an attribution to the Villenauxe-la-Grande manufactory in the Aube region of France.Under the direction of the Tessier family during the 20th century, this manufactory specialized in biscuit porcelain statuary, perpetuating the tradition of 18th-century French sculpture through editions of works by celebrated artists such as Falconet, Houdon, and Boizot.French production, 20th century, attributed to the Villenauxe-la-Grande manufactory.The sculpture is in excellent condition, particularly noteworthy given its substantial dimensions, refined modeling, and the delicacy of its numerous sculptural details.Dimensions:- Height: 34.5 cm (13.58 in.)- Width: 45 cm (17.72 in.)- Depth: 21 cm (8.27 in.)