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18th Century Louis XV Mantel Clock



5 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état et fonctionnement stable.

Material : Bronze

Width : 37 cm

Height : 56 cm

Depth : 14 cm

Description

We are honored to present this striking mantel clock, an exceptional testament to the exquisite craftsmanship and refined aesthetic that defined the Empire period in 19th-century France. This magnificent timepiece showcases a harmonious blend of form and function, characteristic of the style's commitment to neoclassical principles and imperial grandeur. Born from Napoleon Bonaparte's desire for a new, distinctive aesthetic that echoed the glory of ancient Rome and Greece, the Empire style permeated all forms of decorative arts, emphasizing monumentality, rich materials, and allegorical motifs. Architectural Form and Opulent Materials: The clock is presented in a classic architectural form, resembling a classical temple or triumphal arch. A central structure composed of columnar

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supports upholds the circular white enamel dial. These columns, often inspired by ancient Roman models, are majestically adorned with finely cast gilded bronze capitals and bases, adding a touch of unparalleled opulence characteristic of the bronze doré work of the period. Above the dial, a meticulously sculpted gilded bronze group depicting a winged classical figure adds a dramatic and sophisticated decorative element, embodying an allegorical theme typical of the Empire's intellectual and artistic aspirations. The clock rests on a robust rectangular base crafted from a combination of marble types. The visual interplay of contrasting marbles, likely white Carrara or statuary marble with a deeper, veined variety such as griotte or Rouge Royal, creates a visually striking and luxurious effect. This base is further embellished with meticulously chased gilded bronze mounts, featuring intricate motifs of classical inspiration, including flowing acanthus leaves and elegant floral swags. The precision of the bronzework and the careful selection of the marble types underscore the exceptional skill and artistry of the era's craftsmen.

Historical Resonance and Grandeur: The overall effect of this clock is one of commanding grandeur and sophisticated elegance, strongly reminiscent of the imperial palaces and grand residences across Europe where such pieces were central to the interior design. It perfectly encapsulates the stylistic ideals of the Empire era, a period when art and design were meticulously employed to reflect power, order, and classical beauty. This clock would make a stunning addition to any grand residence, serving as an undeniable centerpiece for conversation and admiration.

Key Selling Points & Unrivaled Investment Potential: Quintessential Empire Style: This clock exemplifies the timeless elegance and imperial grandeur of the Empire style, a period celebrated for its neoclassical influences, archaeological accuracy, and refined aesthetic. Luxurious Material Contrast: The harmonious combination

of lustrous gilded bronze and contrasting polychrome marbles creates a visually striking and opulent effect, highlighting the exquisite materials highly prized during the era. **Intricate Craftsmanship:** The exceptional level of detail in the bronze doré work, from the finely cast sculptural group to the intricate acanthus and floral motifs, alongside the meticulous selection and finishing of the marbles, attests to the superior skill and artistry of the period's master artisans. **Profound Historical Significance:** The clock's monumental design and classical iconography powerfully evoke the grandeur and opulence of the 19th-century Napoleonic and post-Napoleonic eras, making it a tangible piece of historical significance and a testament to an influential period in art history. **Compelling Investment Potential:** As a unique, high-quality, and historically significant piece, this clock possesses strong potential to appreciate in value over time, making it a highly desirable acquisition for discerning collectors and institutions.