



## Pair Of Empire Style Ormolu Mounted Malachite Pedestal Tables



48 000 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Good

Width : 45 cm

Height : 83 cm

Depth : 45 cm

### Description

We are honored to present this exquisite pair of pedestal tables, or circular side tables, a superb testament to the artistic and technical prowess of the French Empire style. These magnificent tables embody the neoclassical revival of the early 19th century, profoundly influenced by Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaigns and the subsequent fascination with ancient iconography and opulent materials. The Mesmerizing Malachite Tops and Gilt Bronze Accents: Each table features a captivating octagonal malachite top. Malachite, a rare and highly prized mineral from the Ural Mountains of Imperial Russia, is celebrated for its deep emerald-green hues and intricate natural concentric banding, creating a visually mesmerizing and unique surface. The beauty of the malachite is magnificently framed

### Dealer

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and enhanced by a surrounding pierced ormolu (gilt bronze) gallery. The sides of the tabletop are also adorned with panels of malachite set within an ormolu frame, demonstrating meticulous attention to detail and a lavish use of precious materials.

**The Powerful Sphinx Supports and Dynamic Contrast:** The exceptional artistry continues to the base of each table, which is robustly supported by four commanding patinated bronze winged sphinxes. These mythical creatures, iconic symbols of ancient Egypt and classical antiquity, convey an aura of power, wisdom, and mystery. Their patinated finish offers a striking visual contrast to the radiant gilt bronze elements, showcasing the sophisticated use of contrasting metals that defines the Empire aesthetic. Each sphinx is majestically surmounted by an ormolu foliate capital and gracefully raised on an ormolu horn-shaped pedestal, adding to their imposing presence and classical elegance. The four legs terminate in beautifully rendered gilt bronze paw feet, a frequent motif in Empire design, and are elegantly connected by a pierced gallery stretcher, adding both stability and intricate detail.

**Historical Significance and Artistic Virtuosity:** This pair of tables is a superb example of the Empire style at its most refined, showcasing the period's commitment to archaeological precision, monumental scale, and the opulent combination of rare stones and masterfully crafted bronzes. The sphinx motif, in particular, highlights the pervasive influence of Egyptian discoveries on French decorative arts following Napoleon's expeditions, transforming these tables into significant pieces of historical and artistic narrative.

**Key Selling Points & Unrivaled Collector's Value:** Authentic Empire Style: These tables perfectly exemplify the grandeur and neoclassical principles of the French Empire period, with a strong emphasis on Egyptian Revival elements.

**Exceptional Material Combination:** The use of rare malachite alongside both radiant gilt bronze (ormolu) and contrasting patinated bronze creates a visually stunning and

luxurious effect. Masterful Bronzework: The finely cast, chased, and gilded bronze elements, especially the detailed winged sphinxes and intricate galleries, represent the pinnacle of Parisian bronziers' skill. Iconic Iconography: The powerful and symbolic sphinx figures contribute significantly to the tables' historical and artistic value, linking them directly to the era's fascination with antiquity. Paired Rarity: As a complete pair of such high quality and elaborate design, these tables are exceptionally rare and highly desirable for collectors. Prime Investment Potential: Given their quality, historical significance, and use of precious materials, this pair of tables offers substantial potential for appreciation in value over time.