

SA1085746

A Pair of Derby Porcelain
Figurines of 'Ranelagh Dancers,'
c. 1760-65. Extremely rare.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1085746****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Description

These are exquisite porcelain figurines, known as "Ranelagh Dancers," made by Derby between 1760 and 1765 during the Rococo period. Both figures are depicted in dancing poses, dressed in brightly colored attire typical of the era, with floral bocages behind them on scroll-moulded bases. On May 24, 1759, a masked ball was held in Ranelagh Gardens, Vauxhall, to celebrate the birthday of Frederick George, Prince of Wales. The colorful and sometimes bizarre costumes worn by the guests inspired a number of engravings, paintings, and figurines. While the Chelsea factory produced quite a number of figures representing guests at the ball, Derby produced just this pair, which was not reproduced in later years. The "Ranelagh Dancers" were a popular pair of figures inspired by this famous masked ball. These dancers were made with exceptional care; their physical postures, noble expressions, and beautiful clothes all demonstrate the highest level of craftsmanship. Figurines like these were used to adorn the dinner table when dessert was served, with groups of figures expressing something about the host and the guests. The figures are unmarked, as is usual for pieces from this particu...

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