

SA1136469

Samson Porcelain Figures of Mercury & Venus, c.1850.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1136469****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Description

A charming mid-19th century pair of Paris porcelain figures by Samson, depicting classical Roman deities: Mercury, the god of trade and communication, and Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. Both figures are finely modelled and hand-painted in soft pastel tones with gilt highlights.

Venus stands gracefully on a scallop shell, a direct reference to Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus", one of the most iconic images in Western art. Her modest yet sensual pose and flowing hair echo the classical representation of the goddess emerging from the sea.

Mercury, identified by his winged helmet and caduceus, holds the symbolic staff in his left hand, while a purse rests in his right, underlining his role as the god of commerce. He leans against a classical column decorated with scrolls and rods, completing the allegorical imagery. Both figures are marked underneath with a blue painted interlaced star mark, typical for Samson porcelain in the mid-19th century...

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