

SA1159587

A Museum-Quality &
Provocative Meissen Porcelain
Monkey, "Kunstammer" Piece,
circa 1750

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1159587

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Description

A profoundly important and masterfully executed hard-paste porcelain monkey, dating to the zenith of the Rococo period, circa 1750. This sculpture is a product of the prestigious Meissen manufactory, attributed to the circle of its most celebrated modeller, J.J. Kändler. This piece is a testament to the alchemical nature of 18th-century porcelain production. Its authenticity is indelibly marked by period-correct firing cracks, visible on the base and body. These are not damages, but a fingerprint of obsolete technology—the result of imperfect heat distribution in early muffle kilns, a feature Meissen eliminated by the early 19th century. They are a guarantee of an 18th-century date. What makes this figure extraordinarily rare and intended for a private collection is its shockingly explicit and naturalistic depiction of the monkey's genitals. In an era when porcelain was "white gold," and social decorum was paramount, presenting such a piece in a public salon would have been unthinkable. This proves the figure was created as a provocative object for a "Kunstammer" (Cabinet of Curiosities) or a gentleman's private study, designed to spark discussion about nature, scienc...

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