

SA1176972

Early Derby Biscuit Figure Group 'Three Graces Distressing Cupid', c.1775–1785 — Rare

Price

GBP 1,100

| USD \$1,489 | EUR 1,287

Item Reference: SA1176972**Date of manufacture: Georgian**

Dimensions

Height = 40 cm (15.7")

Width = 20 cm (7.9")

Depth = 20 cm (7.9")

Description

A large and sculpturally ambitious Derby biscuit (unglazed soft-paste porcelain) figure group after William Wynne Ryland's 1777 engraving *Etiam Amor criminibus plectitur* after Angelica Kauffmann: the Three Graces binding Cupid to a tree. Derby's modellers translated Kauffmann's Neoclassical design into three dimensions with remarkable elegance — a tall bocage tree, seated and standing Graces with bow and quiver at the base, and Cupid bound to the trunk. The unglazed biscuit surface retains every modelling detail, from tool marks and drapery folds to floral sprays, epitomising the refinement prized by late-18th-century connoisseurs for table and dessert display. Closely related examples reside in the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Fitzwilliam Museum. Historical Context Founded in the 1750s by William Duesbury, Derby absorbed Chelsea and Bow and reached its artistic zenith in the 1770s–80s. Biscuit figures, marketed as “particularly suited for the Embellishment of Desserts,” represented the highest level of technical and sculptural ambition. Rarity This rare model is more often encountered in museum collections than private hands — a true late-Georgian showpiece. Cond...

Internal Ref: B1484

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