

SA1203781

Pair 19th Century French Ormolu & Alabaster Glass Candle Lustres c1870

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1203781****Date of manufacture: 1870**

Dimensions

Height = 30 cm (11.8")

Width = 26 cm (10.2")

Depth = 26 cm (10.2")

Description

Description A pair of 19th-century gilt bronze and alabaster two-light mantel candle lustres, produced in France around c1870. The ormolu gilt covers the bronze Empire-style, acanthus leaf structure, including the centred golden putto, hanging wreaths and torch finial. The upper and lower plinths are made from carved alabaster and shows its natural grain. The moulded glass sconces have a petal form with a scallop rim. Each lustre retains all of its 22 glass droplets, 44 droplets in total. Date & Origin France, c1870. Emperor Napoléon III (Charles-Louis Napoléon Bonaparte). Condition Restoration of one of the glass sconce plates and some natural fissures to the alabaster, as shown. Dimensions Height: 30cm Lustre Width: 26cm Base Width: 14cm Historical Context Ormolu is an 18th-19th century decorative technique. Finely ground of applying a high-carat gold is mixed with mercury to form a paste, applied to bronze, and fired in a kiln, evaporating the toxic mercury and leaving a rich gold coating. Popularised in France during the 18th century (Rococo, Neoclassical, and Empire styles), it was banned around 1830, though usage continued in some areas until the 20th century.

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