

SA1229100

French Bourbon Restoration Porcelain Portrait Plaque of Madame Élisabeth, c.1825

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1229100****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Width = 6.8 cm (2.7")

Description

A rare French hard-paste porcelain oval portrait plaque dating from the Bourbon Restoration period, circa 1825. Painted to an exceptional standard, this refined miniature is the work of an accomplished French porcelain artist. The portrait depicts Princess Élisabeth Philippe Marie Hélène of France (1764–1794), better known as Madame Élisabeth, the youngest sister of King Louis XVI. She was guillotined during the Reign of Terror in 1794. She is regarded by the Catholic Church as a martyr and was declared a Servant of God by Pope Pius XII. The composition follows the celebrated portrait by Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, later drawn by Pierre Louis Henri Grévedon in 1823, lithographed by François-Séraphin Delpech and finally interpreted on porcelain by an unknown French master painter. The beautifully modelled features, elegant coiffure and harmonious palette display miniature painting of remarkable refinement. Executed entirely by hand, the portrait was painted with finely ground metallic oxide enamels applied in successive translucent layers using extremely fine brushes beneath a magnifying glass. Four or five separate firings in a muffle kiln were required to complete the wo...

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