

SA265721

Early C19th bronze 'Grand Tour' souvenir sculpture of "The Farnese Hercules".

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA265721

Date of manufacture: 1800

Description

Early C19th bronze 'Grand Tour' souvenir sculpture of the "Farnese Hercules". Large-scale bronze version of the antique Roman marble sculpture of the Greek hero Herakles depicted resting after the completion of his 'Twelve Labours' or tasks, set out to him in Mythology. He leans, resting on his wooden club, his expression weary, whilst the pelt of the slain Nemean lion is draped next to him and his right hand behind his back clutching the 'Golden Apples' of the Hesperides. The ancient Roman marble statue had been re-discovered during excavations in The Baths of Caracalla in Rome in 1546 and installed in the courtyard of Cardinal Allesandro Farnese's palace on the banks of the Tiber, where it was surrounded by frescos depicting his heroic feats and where it became one of the highlights of the Roman Tour for visiting scholars, connoisseurs and artists. The 3rd Century AD Roman marble Hercules signed by Glykon, after the ancient 4th Century BC Greek bronze original by Lysippos, was moved to Naples in 1787 and is now exhibited at the 'Museo Archeologico Nazionale'. The impressive sculpture which stands at over 3 metres tall, portrays the exaggerated musculature of the toweri...

Internal Ref: MLWA 1312

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