

SA407434

Late C19th Italian carved alabaster 'Grand Tour' souvenir sculpture, after the antique , "The Medici Lion".

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA407434

Date of manufacture: 1880

Dimensions

Height = 26 cm (10.2")

Width = 36 cm (14.2")

Depth = 15 cm (5.9")

Description

Late C19th Italian carved alabaster 'Grand Tour' souvenir sculpture, after the antique, "The Medici Lion". Well-executed carved alabaster model of good scale depicting the iconic Medici lion . The sculpture has striking black and grey veining to the stone , particularly to the head and mane areas of the lion. Mounted upon an integral cantilevered base. The lion is depicted with its paw raised upon a sphere or ball, the tail coiled beneath his hind quarters. The mouth of the beast is portrayed as half-open displaying the teeth , alluding to its ferocity . Excellent attention to detail with well-carved mane and coat , with rib-cage definition and defined musculature expressing the power and majesty of the subject. The Lion and his companion sculpture guard the entrance steps of the Loggia Dei Lanzi , Piazza della Signoria, Florence ,Italy. Previously sited at the 'Villa Medici' Rome from 1598 , until moved to their present site in 1789. Of the two , one lion being of ancient 2nd century origin , whilst the companion sculpture was carved in the C16th by Flaminio Vacca. This sculpture being a copy of Vacca's lion , with the ball under its left front paw and mod...

Internal Ref: ML 185

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