

SA695736

Barbedienne Collas Foundry French Gilt Bronze of Penelope Asleep by Cavalier c. 1850

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA695736****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 23 cm (9.1")

Width = 26 cm (10.2")

Depth = 14 cm (5.5")

Description

A superb mid 19th century gilt bronze sculpture of Penelope waiting for Odysseus cast by the famous Parisian foundry F. Barbedienne, founded in 1838, and bearing their signature and the Achille Collas stamp. . This bronze is of Homer's sleeping Penelope who, during her 20 year wait for her husband Odysseus to return from the Trojan wars, found many clever ways to delay the dozens of suitors who begged to marry her. Each day she worked weaving a shroud for her father in law Laertes, claiming she would choose a suitor when she completed the task - and each night she unravelled her work. In Penelope's hand is a spool of yarn and further spools at her feet. . The figure of sleeping Penelope was sculpted in marble by Pierre-Jules Cavalier (b. 1814 d. 1894) and first exhibited in 1848. The sculpture received great acclaim and won Cavalier a first class medal and medal of honour at the 1849 Paris Salon Exhibition. The critics were unanimous that "With his Penelope Asleep, Mr Cavalier has established himself as one of the greatest modern sculptors. This figure, slumped in her chaste cloths, succumbed to the fatigue of labour, with the modest and severe grace of the glorious...

Seller Details

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