

SA976485

Antique Derby figure: Air, one
of the Four Elements,c.
1756-1765,Very Rare

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA976485

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 24 cm (9.4")

Description

Here is a very rare of Derby figure: Air, one of the four elements of the Four Elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. These antique porcelain figures were made around 1756-1765 - the so-called Patch Period. You can see the Marks on the bases of early soft paste Derby figures indicate the points where supports were used to prevent the porcelain from sticking during the firing of the glaze. The Classical Elements are one way that ancient philosophers and scientists understood the composition of the universe. Interest in these and other ancient beliefs had a resurgence in the Neoclassical revival of the 18th century, and in particular in artistic and literary forms. Like most porcelain factories, Derby also made sets of allegorical figures to illustrate other classical personifications: the Four Seasons, the Four Quarters of the Globe, the Arts, the Muses, etc. the decoration of the clothing is in the early Derby pastel palette with European flowers added in complementary colors. In the standard reference book on Derby figures, Peter Bradshaw's "Derby Porcelain Figures," this very set is illustrated in a black and white photograph as the example for the Four Elements. The desc...

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