

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Ferdinand Barbedienne (1810 - 1892)

A Fine Pair of Neoclassical Style Gilt and Patinated Bronze Nine-Light Candelabra

Circa: French, Circa 1870

French, Circa 1870

88 x 0 cm (34 5/16 x 0 inches)

Patinated bronze Marble ormolu

Stamped 'BARBEDIENNE'.

A Fine Pair of Neoclassical Style Gilt and Patinated Bronze Nine-Light Candelabra by Ferdinand Barbedienne.

Each candelabra has a central gilt-bronze vase shaped nozzle issuing nine scrolling foliate branches with circular drip-pans and fluted nozzles, above a patinated bronze vase decorated all over with classical mythological scenes, headed to each side by fantastical mask form handles, above a spreading circular base inscribed 'F. Barbedienne', on a spreading fluted rouge girotte marble base with gilt-bronze acanthus and paw cast feet.

The superbly cast mask form handles to the side of each vase are modelled as chimerical ibex after the model of vase by the celebrated eighteenth-century sculptor Clodion (1738-1814), made during his time at the French Academy in Rome from 1762 to 1771. One noted terracotta example, formerly in the collection of the princely Russian Dolgoroukov family, is now in the Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg (H.CK-2093), exhibited at the Clodion exhibition, musee du Louvre in 1992. A related example in marble, notably in the treatment of the masks, is in the Wallace Collection, London (S32).

French, Circa 1870.

Artist description:

Ferdinand Barbedienne (1810-1892) was the inspiration and driving force behind one of the most important French art foundries. He pioneered the use of mounts and, more commonly, bronze sculpture including figures and animals. Barbedienne produced catalogues of bronze reproductions of Greek and Roman classical sculpture and experimented with *champlevé* and *cloisonné* enamels during the third quarter of the century. Barbedienne exhibited several pieces of furniture at the 1855 Paris Exhibition including an ormolu mounted oak dressing table and an ormolu mounted ebony veneered bookcase. Both pieces were executed in his favoured Renaissance revival style for furniture. Furniture with mounts signed by Barbedienne is extremely rare.

The Barbedienne foundry handled the casting of numerous national monuments and architectural schemes. Ferdinand Barbedienne himself also took an active part in the promotion of contemporary sculpture and became one of the founders for Davis d'Angers' medallions as well as much of Rude's sculpture.

His signature varied from hand written capitals to stamp in capitals, usually F. Barbedienne, Fondateur or BARBEDIENNE PARIS.

In 1839 Barbedienne collaborated with the inventor Achille Collas who had succeeded in enlarging and reducing works of art to arbitrary sizes by a simple mathematical calculation, allowing the accurate reduction of classical and contemporary marbles for the purpose of reproduction in bronze. In 1850 Barbedienne was commissioned to furnish the Paris town hall for which he was awarded with the 'medaille d' honneur' at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1855.

Barbedienne's awards:

Paris, 1878; 'Grand Prix', 'Grande Médaille d'Or', 'Diplôme d'honneur', and 28 'Médailles de Coopérateurs'.

Vienna 1873; 2 'Diplômes d'Honneur', 'Médailles de Progrès', and 25 'Médailles de Coopérateurs'.

Paris 1867: 'Jure Rapporteur (Hors Concours)'.

London 1862; 3 Medals for Excellence.

Paris 1855; 'Grande Médaille d'Honneur'.

London 1851; 2 Council Medals.

Makers Bibliography:

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