

# ADRIAN ALAN

*Fine Art & Antiques*



**Mathieu Befort Jeune**

## **A Pair of Napoleon III Gilt-Bronze and Hardstone-Mounted Ebonised Pedestal-Cabinets**

Circa: French, Circa 1870

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135 x 61 x 42 cm (53 1/4 x 24 x 16 1/4 inches)

ebonised wood Gilt-Bronze Pietre Dure

Stamped 'MB' to the reverse of the top corner mounts for Mathieu Befort, (Befort Jeune).

A Pair of Napoleon III Gilt-Bronze and Hardstone-Mounted Ebonised Pedestal-Cabinets by Mathieu Befort (Befort Jeune).

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This impressive pair of ebonised pedestals have fine gilt-bronze mounts and superb Florentine Pietre Dure hardstone inlaid panels.

Of square tapering form they have an inset white marble top above a tapering brass-inlaid body with figural, acanthus cast, term figures to the angles and fronted by a panelled door mounted with a fine hardstone relief of ribbon-tied fruiting garland with a perching bird; the door opening to a mahogany veneered interior with a fixed shelf. The pedestals are raised on plinth bases with shaped aprons centred by pierced-shell clasps.

French, Circa 1870.

**Literature:**

Ledoux - Lebard, Denise. 'Les Ébénistes du XIXe siècle', Les Editions de L'Amateur, (Paris), 1984; pp. 48-50.

**Artist description:**

Mathieu Befort (Befort Jeune) (1813-1880) is recorded as having worked in Paris from 1836 until 1880.

He was descended from a family of renowned ébénistes and was the son of the renowned cabinetmaker Jean-Baptiste Befort, known as Befort Père, who was of Belgian origin and renowned for having supplied furniture for the apartments of the Duc d'Orléans.

Father and son are noted for their interpretations of furniture by André-Charles Boulle and the creation of vernis marin and porcelain mounted furniture, often in the manner of Riesener.

The firm received a medal at the 1844 Exposition de l'Industrie Française, and earned Befort a reputation for the high quality of his work. As a result he became a purveyor to Napoléon III and Empress Eugénie.

**Makers Bibliography:**

Ledoux-Lebard, Denise Les Ebénistes du XIX Siècle, Editions de l'Amateur, (Paris) 1984, pps. 48-50.