

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Hippolyte-Edme Pretot

A Fine Pair of Napoleon III Gilt-Bronze and Pietre Dure Mounted Ebonized Side Cabinets

Circa: French, Circa 1855

French, Circa 1855

125 x 105 x 46 cm (49 1/4 x 41 3/4 x 18 1/4 inches)

Pietre Dure Ebonised Wood

A Fine Pair of Napoleon III Gilt-Bronze and Pietre Dure Mounted Ebonized Side Cabinets, Attributed to Hippolyte-Edme Pretot.

These side cabinets or meubles à hauteur d'appui are superb examples of the finest furniture made in Paris during the reign of Napoleon III, a period characterised by opulence and the lavish use of materials. Accordingly the cabinets are applied with gilt-bronze mounts, the front angles sculpted with gilt-bronze male and female bacchic busts representing revelry, and the celebratory theme is continued on the doors which are richly applied with Florentine pietre dure hardstone panels carved in relief depicting fruit filled urns surrounded by scrolling vine branches. The tops are black marble and the hinged doors enclose adjustable shelves.

French, Circa 1855.

The period of these cabinets and their style, particularly the use of semi-precious hardstone ornament, attributes them to the maker Hippolyte-Edme Pretot who was renowned for his creation of 'meubles incrustés' (furniture applied with pietre dure) and presided over an active Parisian atelier which exhibited works at the Paris Exposition nationale of 1849 and was awarded a second class medal at the London International Exhibition of 1862.

Artist description:

Hippolyte-Edme Pretot (1812-1855) was a Paris born cabinet-maker established at 16, rue de l'abbaye in 1836; 11, bis, rue Saint-Germain-des-Prés in 1841; and from 1846 at 3 & 5 rue de Harlay. He specialised in Boulle furniture exhibiting at the Exposition Nationale in 1849 and at the 1851 Great Exhibition in London where he won a medal for a collection of hard stone inlaid furniture.

Bibliography:

Ledoux-Lebard, Denise 'Les Ebenistes du XIX Siecle', Editions de l'Amateur, (Paris) , 1984, pps. 531-