Finch & Co



A RARE BERLIN CAST IRONWORK NEO-CLASSICAL SCULPTURE OF ARIADNE AND THE PANTHER

A RARE BERLIN CAST IRONWORK NEO-CLASSICAL SCULPTURE OF ARIADNE AND THE PANTHER 'AFTER THE ANTIQUE'
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
Â€¨SIZE: 18.5CM HIGH, 14CM WIDE, 6.5CM DEEP - 7¼ INS HIGH, 5½ INS WIDE, 2½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

ORIGINATING IN SILESIA, PRUSSIA AT THE GLEIWITZ FOUNDRY, DECORATIVE OBJECTS IN CAST IRON WERE MADE FROM 1800 TO 1840 AT THE ROYAL PRUSSIAN IRON FOUNDRY IN BERLIN. JEWELLERY AND SMALL STATUARY AS WELL AS ACCESSORIES FOR SEWING, WRITING AND SMOKING WERE PRODUCED. PRUSSIAN ARTISTS SUCH AS SCHINKEL PROVIDED DESIGNS IN BOTH THE NEO-CLASSICAL AND NEO-GOTHIC STYLES. AFTER NAPOLEON HAD MARCHED ON BERLIN AND REMOVED THE CASTING MOULDS FROM THE FOUNDRY A MANUFACTORY WAS BEGUN IN FRANCE THAT PRODUCED IRONWORK JEWELLERY 'FER DE BERLIN'.
THE PROCESS WAS LABOUR INTENSIVE AS MOULDED WAX MODELS WERE MADE FOR EACH ITEM THEN PRESSED INTO SAND TO CREATE AN IMPRESSION INTO WHICH THE MOLTEN IRON WAS POURED. EACH PIECE WAS THEN HAND-FINISHED AND COATED WITH A FINE BLACK LACQUER.