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A VICTORIAN STATUARY MARBLE FIGURE OF CUPID

after the 18th Century original by Étienne Maurice Falconet commissioned by Marie Antoinette for Hôtel d'Évreux

the young putto modelled on a stylised rock with his right index finger held to his lips, his quiver at his side, raised on a circular plinth,

DIMENSIONS: 60cm (23¹/₂"") High, 27cm (10³/₄"") Wide, 27cm (10³/₄"") in Diameter

PRICE: £5,250

STOCK CODE: 49186



HISTORY

The original marble statue (probably the one at The Rijksmuseum rather than The Louvre) by Étienne Maurice Falconet (1716-1791) was commissioned after Marie Antoinette saw the sculptor's plaster original at a Salon of 1755 and had it carved for her Paris residence L'Hôtel d'Évreux - better known today as the Elysee Palace. It has been much reproduced since.

Here though the sculptor, probably English, has allowed themselves some interpretative leeway. The putto is seated on a naturalistic rock rather than a cloud and, being terrestrially based, is wing-less. The central, slightly menacing, message of piece remains: the boy is surreptitiously reaching for a love-dart and the viewer is invited to share in his mischievous and secretive intent. It is for this that the statue is often referred to as "L'Amour Menaçant".