



A Charles X opaline Medicis vase

Era: first 19th century, Charles X.

Materials: opaline, gilt bronze.

Dim: H 23 cm / W 23 cm / D 15.5 cm.

Inspired by antiquity, the classic “Medici” shape of this vase is in white opal or “milky opaline” crystal. On a pedestal, it is set in a chased and gilded bronze frame, the upper part adorned with two birds in the round on curved drinking branches, and the lower part with a laurel torus motif. This motif of doves drinking from a fountain was discovered at Hadrian's villa in Tivoli. Circa 1815-1830.

From the end of the 18th century, France began producing colored crystal or opaline. Numerous objects were produced, the first forms of which were strongly inspired by Antiquity. But it was during the Restoration period that colors such as “pigeon's throat, milky white or turquoise” appeared, made possible by the addition of gold salts. Famous factories such as Le Creusot, Baccarat and Saint-Louis became the main production centers.

Bibliography: L'opaline française au XIXe siècle/Yolande Amic.- Paris : Gründ, 1952.

Edith Mannoni, Opalines, Paris, Editions Ch. Massin, pp. 31-43.

J. Bedel, « Cristal aux couleurs romantiques... l'Opaline », L'Estampille/L'Objet d'art, 1975, n°63, p 23.