

Lot 204



Auction Decorative Art

Date 18.05.2022, ca. 16:32

Preview 13.05.2022 - 10:00:00 bis
16.05.2022 - 18:00:00

11 FIGURINES FROM A SERIES "CRIS DE PARIS".

Meissen.

Date: 20th century, once before 1924.

Maker/Designer: Model J.J. Kaendler and P. Reinicke.

Technique: Porcelain, enriched in colours and gold.

Description: Drummer, girl with chicks, farmer with oboe, greengrocer, hunter, twice flower vendor, nobleman, lady with fan, vinegar merchant, flower merchant with basket to hang around her neck.

Measurement: Height approx. 13-15,5cm.

Mark: Swordsmark, 60224/60245/60246/60247/60248/60249/28/60250/60251/60252/60253, div. year marks.

Provenance:

Private collection Hestia.

In the 18th century, the streets of the great European cities were filled with the shouts, often in rhyme or song, of various merchants and craftsmen offering their goods and services. Their trade was mostly aimed at members of the same low-income social class, so wages were meagre, competition was fierce and life was often hard. Criers were a popular motif in art, whether because of their faces marked by life or a romanticised perception of their way of living. In Meissen, artists attempted this subject as well. In the early 1750s, Johann Joachim Kaendler travelled to Paris on behalf of August III and met J. Huet, the most important Parisian dealer for Meissen porcelain. On this occasion he met his brother Christophe, a well-known engraver and decorative painter. Kaendler commissioned him to produce a series of 31 model drawings with Parisian criers in the rococo style typical of the period. These pen and ink drawings are preserved in the Meissen manufactory archives to this day.

With 35 models, the "Cris de Paris" form the largest series of themed figurines in the manufactory's programme. The traders, dressed in the delicate colours of the Rococo period, go about their work on rocaille pedestals decorated with gold. Most of the models are by Peter Reinicke. Nevertheless, some of the figurines reveal signs of Kaendler's signature esthetic. He obviously assisted Reinicke in his work or reworked models later.

However, not all the criers refer to the models supplied by Huet. Some of the finely crafted figurines are based on depictions by Boucher or Watteau, while others probably sprang from the imagination of their modellers. By turning to everyday representations, such as those presented by the criers, the Meissen manufactory was addressing an increasingly middle-class audience.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Seven Years' War, this reorientation was crucial to the later economic success of the manufactory, whose products became increasingly accessible to a wider public.

Estimate: 3.000 € - 4.000 €; Hammer: 2.800 €
