

Lot 80



Auction **Decorative Art**

Date 16.11.2022, ca. 11:59

Preview 11.11.2022 - 10:00:00 bis
14.11.2022 - 18:00:00

PAIR OF IMPRESSIVE LION STATUES.

France.

Date: 18th century.

Technique: Terracotta with residues of paint.

Description: The lions with slender physique and spreading mane sitting lengthwise on a rectangular plinth with bevelled corners. Between the front legs a large ball held with the left and right paw respectively. Their gaze is directed forward in each case.

Measurement: a) 80x35x54cm. b) 72x36x55cm.

One of the lions with fine hairline crack on its back.

Provenance: Bavarian private collection.

Literature:

Nunez, Luisina: The Development of the Lion as an Occidental Symbol of Sovereignty in the Early and High Middle Ages, 2016.

Even before antiquity, the lion was a widespread motif in the visual arts and, over the centuries, always a symbol of sovereignty and power. Whether, for example, as a heraldic animal or as an architectural decorative element, the lion was extremely sought after as the king of beasts. Accordingly, they were often placed in pairs in entrance areas as an expression of the strength and vigilance of the master of the house, which was to be demonstrated to the visitor in the very first moments.

"Magnificent nature makes the lion stand out, And she bestows on him in abundant and manifold ways. Royal nobility, powers, resolute boldness, and terror, not without splendour, are found in him. A grim countenance, slanting the corners of the eyes, Serves to indicate the royal dignity." Alexander Neckam (1157-1217), quoted from: Nunez (2016) p.3).

Estimate: 10.000 € - 12.000 €; Hammer: 8.500 €
