



18TH CENTURY FRENCH AUBUSSON TAPESTRY "COLIN-MAILLARD" OR BLIND MAN'S BUFF SCENE

\$15,300

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This large and elegant antique tapestry was woven in Aubusson, France, circa 1760. The handwoven scene depicts a lively group of figures engaged in the popular 18th-century game Colin-Maillard (Blind Man's Buff), set within a lush wooded landscape near a stone balustrade. Dressed in historically accurate French costumes, the participants are beautifully rendered in shades of crimson, ivory, and sky blue, contrasted by rich foliage in soft green and teal tones. The tapestry retains its original scrolling floral border, while a new heavy white canvas backing provides reinforcement and protection. Aubusson tapestries represent the pinnacle of French weaving tradition. Originating in the Creuse region of central France, the Aubusson workshops flourished under royal patronage during the reign of Louis XIV. Renowned for their refined verdure and pastoral scenes, these handwoven textiles were created on low-warp looms ("basse lisse") using wool and silk to achieve remarkable depth, tonal harmony, and painterly realism. Valued by European nobility for their beauty and grandeur, Aubusson tapestries remain enduring symbols of French craftsmanship and timeless elegance. Executed in fine wool and silk, this courtly 18th-century Aubusson piece is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, displaying vibrant colors, strong definition, and a well-preserved original border. Measures: 116" W × 89" H.