



19TH CENTURY FRENCH SPELTER SCULPTURE OF JOCKEY ON HORSEBACK SIGNED P.J. MÈNE

\$3,400

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Make a bold statement with this large 19th-century French sculpture signed by Pierre-Jules Mène (1810–1879), one of the most celebrated animalier sculptors of his era. Cast in spelter and created circa 1870, the piece measures over two feet in both width and height, offering an impressive presence. It features a jockey seated atop a poised thoroughbred, rendered in dynamic detail with a hand-painted red jacket, black riding trousers, and helmet. The polychrome finish brings warmth and realism to the composition, enhancing its decorative appeal. Mène was a pioneering figure in 19th-century animal sculpture and a leading member of the French “Animaliers” school, alongside artists like Rosa Bonheur, Antoine-Louis Barye, and Auguste Cain. Known for his vivid portrayals of horses and sporting scenes, Mène operated his own foundry to ensure exceptional quality in his castings. While his bronzes are highly sought after, spelter examples such as this made his work more accessible during the late 19th century, retaining much of the original's artistry and vigor. Listed in the Benzit (see last picture). Measuring 27 inches wide by 8 inches deep and 24 inches high, this substantial and expressive sculpture is ideal for display on a console, mantel, or library cabinet. Excellent condition commensurate with age and use.