

19TH CENTURY FRENCH THOMAS SERGENT BARBOTINE MAJOLICA EWER WITH SERPENT HANDLE

$1,300

SKU: 242-522
Stock: N/A
Categories: Vases, Jardinières, Planters & Centerpieces

Add a touch of French ceramic artistry to a buffet, console, or display cabinet with this colorful antique barbotine majolica ewer. Crafted in France circa 1870 and attributed to celebrated French ceramist Thomas-Victor Sergent, the decorative vessel, known as an aiguière, showcases the elaborate sculptural decoration and vibrant glazes characteristic of 19th-century French faience.

The tall ewer stands on a circular pedestal base embellished with molded foliage and rises to a rounded, bulbous body richly decorated with classical medallions featuring lion heads and expressive masks in high relief. The medallions are framed by intricate scrolling foliage, textured leaves, and ornamental motifs, creating a striking three-dimensional composition.

A particularly distinctive feature is the gracefully arched serpent-form handle, which rises dramatically above the body and curves toward the wide, flared spout. The mouth is shaped like an unfurling leaf, with deeply ribbed detailing that complements the sculptural quality of the vessel. The hand-painted glazes combine rich cobalt blue, turquoise green, lavender, golden yellow, and warm brown tones, creating a luminous polychrome finish.

Thomas-Victor Sergent (1830–1890) was a French ceramist recognized for his richly decorated majolica and barbotine pottery. Active during the second half of the 19th century, he became known for his naturalistic and Renaissance-inspired designs, producing decorative vases, platters, ewers, and tobacco jars. His creations are appreciated for their imaginative forms, sculptural ornamentation, and colorful glazes.

The antique French ewer is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, retaining its rich colors and glossy glazed finish. A distinctive example of French decorative ceramics, ideal for a country French interior or a collection of 19th-century majolica.

Dimensions: 8" Diameter x 17.5" H

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