

Pair of candelabra with sphinxes of Directoire Period



Dimensions : Height: 18.5 in. (47 cm), Diameter: 7 in. (18 cm)

This very elegant pair of candelabras featuring winged sphinxes belongs to a style called "retour d'Egypte", or return to Egypt. The decorative repertoires of this style were inspired by numerous sketches of ancient Egyptian monuments which were completed by artists during Bonaparte's Campaign of Egypt (1798-1801).

The most famous collection of sketches was *Le Voyage dans la basse et haute Egypte* by Vivant-Denon, which contributed much to the diffusion of décor influenced by pharaonic Egypt.

The sphinxes on these candelabra, finished in brown patina, are crowned with Kluft headdresses, upon which they bear fruit-laden baskets. Three candlestick-topped arms, ornamented with sunflowers and pearls, sprout out from the baskets and are linked by wispy gilt chains which lead to long stalks peaked by pinecone shapes. The bronze is still in possession of its original mercury gilding and a lovely shine. Each candelabra is fixed on a white poly-lobed marble base, which rests on six feet formed like flattened orbs.