



18th Century Antique

An Irish George III Neoclassical chimneypiece carved in Statuary marble with Siena inlays, circa 1775. With a breakfront shelf supported by a reeded freeze. This is centred by a tablet carved with a sleeping infant Hercules holding two snakes, his club under his legs, while a cupid is watching him sleeping. The reclining Cupid iconography, popular from the Renaissance throughout the Neoclassical period, can be seen as a variant of the mythological episode of the Infant Hercules fighting a snake sent into his crib by Hera. The frieze ends in cornerblocks depicting two cupids. The jambs are carved with a thyrus, a pair of doves standing on top of this.

Dimensions

Height 53 $\frac{1}{8}$ in (135cm) width 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (179cm)

Internal height 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (105.5cm) width 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (119cm)

Footblock to footblock 67in (170cm)

Shelf depth 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (16.5cm)

Reference

G421