



19th Century Antique

A monumental Belle Époque chimneypiece carved from solid Rosso Antico marble. Belle Époque, or the 'Beautiful Era', refers to a period of French and European history dating from around the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 to the start of the First World War in 1914. This optimistic period of economic prosperity saw great advancements in the arts, culture, and technology. Rosso Antico, a marble favoured in ancient Rome, was revived during the Belle Époque for its historical resonance and dramatic colour. The scale and rarity of this piece suggest a prestigious commission, likely for a Palace or Château, reflecting the era's taste for opulence and classical revival. The piece is extravagantly decorated with acanthus and other floral motifs on fielded panels and exhibits an unusual domed frieze and shelf, giving it a striking and powerful character.

Dimensions

Height 59½in (150cm) width 75½in (192cm)

Internal height 45¾in (115cm) width 44½in (113.3cm)

Footblock to footblock 74in (188cm)

Shelf depth 12½in (32.5cm)

Reference

I236