



Creature, Curiosity - Earthenware Tile Representing A Musala - Spain, Bestiary

250 EUR



Period : 18th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Terracotta

<https://www.proantic.com/en/1492243-creature-curiosity-earth-ware-tile-representing-a-musala-spain-bestiary.html>

Description

Period: Second half of the 18th century
Origin: Spain (probably Valencia or Catalonia)

This polychrome earthenware tile is a beautiful illustration of the "Rajoles d'Arts i Oficis", an 18th-century Spanish decorative tradition, depicting scenes from everyday life, allegories, or hybrid figures with sometimes enigmatic meanings.

Description

o Material: Polychrome glazed earthenware on a white background

o Decoration: The scene depicts a Mulassa, a legendary creature halfway between a horse and a dog, often associated with Spanish folk tales. Here, it is portrayed with an ornate blue collar, a

Dealer

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Maussane-les-Alpilles 13520

small shield on its side, and spitting flames. The background features a blue sky crossed by stylized birds, enhancing the lively and narrative character of the scene.

The Mulassa: A creature from popular tradition

In 18th-century Spanish folklore, the Mulassa was a hybrid creature of uncertain origins, appearing in folk tales and sometimes associated with satirical or symbolic representations.

- o It could be a humorous or allegorical creation, used to mock a social order, a corporation, or a well-known figure of the time.
- o The blue collar and shield suggest a noble or military affiliation, while the flames it spits may symbolize power, eloquence, or destructive force.
- o These tiles were frequently incorporated into the wall decorations of bourgeois homes and public buildings, adding a touch of irony or fantasy to Spanish interiors.

A similar tile, from the Josep Ma Pons Guri collection, is preserved at the Arenys de Mar Museum in Catalonia, testifying to the widespread use of these motifs in 18th-century Spain.

Condition

Beautiful aged patina, with visible chips on the enamel, particularly on the body of the Mulassa, attesting to its use and age.

Dimensions

- o Side: 13 x 13 cm

Shipping

Fast and secure shipping via DHL Express, ensuring that this unique and characterful piece arrives in optimal condition.