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A superb French antique chimneypiece in statuary marble and of Louis XV style and period (1774-94). Of typical rectangular form and carved to the very highest quality. The shelf breaking forward over the jambs, the frieze headed with a band of egg and dart mouldings and centred with an inset panel bordered with a continuous band of running pearl. Centred with the head of the sun god Apollo, who was supreme at the court of Versailles, where he symbolised the King, Le Roi-Soleil. This is deeply carved in high relief his long wavy hair tied under his chin, above and flanked by ribbon knotted branches of Laurel. The jambs in the form of three quarter, tapering pedestal columns with stopped flutes decorated with sprigs of laurel and surmounted by acanthus decorated capitals.

Dimensions

Height 48in (121.9cm) width 70in (177.8cm)

Internal height 38in (96.5cm) width 53in (134.6cm)

Shelf depth 18in (45.7cm)