



18th Century Antique

An exquisite 1780s Irish chimneypiece of good proportions, in white statuary marble with Pietra Dura inlays. The central tablet depicts the Judgement of Solomon, and celebrates selfless love. The cornerblocks are finely carved with urns of flowers. The frieze and jambs are decorated with precious Pietra Dura inlays, shaped in ribbons and bell-flower chain details. Meaning 'hard stone' in Italian, Pietra Dura is a technique that finds its origins during the Roman time, but was fully developed during the Renaissance. It involves the use of semiprecious coloured stones that are cut to shape and fitted to a marble surface to create light and colourful ornamental designs.

Dimensions

Height 56¼in (143cm) width 74in (188cm)

Internal height 44⅞in (114cm) width 48in (122cm)

Footblock to footblock 67¾in (172cm)

Shelf depth 6½in (15.5cm)

Reference

G468