



19TH CENTURY FRENCH PLASTER BAS RELIEF DEPICTING A FRIEZE OF TRAJAN'S FORUM



\$7,900.00

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Country Of Origin
In The Style Of
Age
Dimensions

France
Neoclassical
1800's
H - 43 3/4, W - 51, D - 6 3/4

Trajan's Forum is a large public square in Rome, built between 106 and 113 AD, under the directive of Emperor Trajan himself. The last of the monumental fora built in Rome, Trajan's Forum features an impressive array of architecture, including numerous enclosed buildings and an open-air courtyard, paved with Carrara marble. Designed to commemorate Trajan's victory in the Dacian Wars, the forum was home to numerous statues and architectural carvings illustrating various stages of Trajan's life. One such carving provided the inspiration for our plaster bas relief.

Cast in France in the 1800's from a mold made of the frieze of a forum building, this Neoclassical scene depicts a winged entity known as a *genius* pouring a drink from a gadrooned ewer. In Roman mythology, a genius was a divine entity that followed a person throughout their life, akin to a guardian angel. The figure has a pair of addorsed wings, and a lower body comprised of a curled leaf. A large floral rinceaux can be seen in between the genius and a krater vase with fluted handles and adorned with a mythological scene on the main body. To the right of the vase is an incised inscription "*partie fries forum trajan mus Vatican*", indicating that this is a fragment of a frieze from Trajan's Forum that is on display at a Vatican museum (although the frieze has since moved to a different museum within the Vatican).

A truly remarkable antique that is after a carving over 1900 years old, our 19th century plaster bas relief is an instant



architectural.

CONDITION: Good antique condition with minor losses, rubs, and age separations. Small patch to the right side of the plaster with buildup to some areas. Some areas, such as the inscription, have faded elements.





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