

A Sevres Biscuit porcelain bust on pedestal of Napoleon Bonaparte, modelled as the First Consul in uniform of General, manufacture of Alexandre Brachard (1775-1830) after Louis Simon Boizot (1743-1809), marked on the back: SEVRES 9 and B ... Bonaparte 1er Consul.

Circa 1809

Height: 11 in. (28 cm)

One of the rare biscuit copies of this model (a dozen) made by the Manufacture de Sèvres. « *J'ai reçu, citoyens, le buste du général Bonaparte que vous avez fait établir en porcelaine biscuit, d'après le modèle du cit. Boizot, artiste en chef de la manufacture (...) Cette production fait beaucoup d'honneur au cit. Boizot, et je trouve que la ressemblance y ajoute un nouveau mérite* » writes Letourneur, Minister of the Interior to the directors of the Manufacture, April 4, 1798 (Archives Sèvres: H.7.15). This compliment about the representation of General Bonaparte could also apply to that of Bonaparte 1st Consul that the artist will realize shortly after, in 1800, as evidenced by the plaster model still preserved today at the Manufacture. The bust gives a faithful image of Bonaparte on his return from Egypt, shortly after the coup d'état of 18 Brumaire year VIII (November 9, 1799), wearing short hair revealing the ears, head and eyes slightly turned to his right, ignoring that of the spectators. Bonaparte wears the uniform of a general with a crossed and buttoned jacket with wide folded collar, the braid embroidered with acorns and oak leaves. Two other biscuit versions of the bust, also present variants, either decor or costume. On the first of these, preserved at the Army Museum in Paris (Inv Db 216), palms have replaced the patterns of oak leaves, while in the second at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore (Inv. 48.1001) the consul wears his widely open habit revealing the embroidered vest.

Bibliography:

G. Hubert, G. Ledoux-Lebard, *Napoleon, contemporary portraits, busts and statues*, ed. Arthena, 1999, pp. 22-23, 38-46 repr. (plaster and biscuit versions) Cat. expo .:

Louis-Simon Boizot, 1743-1809, *Sculptor of the King and director of the sculpture workshop of the Manufacture de Sèvres, Versailles, Musée Lambinet*, 2001-2002, p. 342, No. 87. Expert: Albéric Froissart