

# RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



## **Two Playing Putti with Grapevines**

Grayish patinated terracotta group on a round, profiled, gilded wooden base

60 cm  
23.6220472440945

60 cm (23<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches)

Signed and dated: JBP 1784

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Jean-Baptiste Pigalle (January 26, 1714 – August 21, 1785, Paris) came from a family of cabinetmakers. As a youth, he studied under Robert Le Lorrain and Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne and was influenced by Bouchardon. After failing to win the Prix de Rome from the Academie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture, he traveled to Rome at his own expense in 1740 or 1741, stopping in Lyon. In 1744, he became a member of the Academie Royale. He received several official commissions from the royal family and created sculptures for Madame de Pompadour.

His most famous works include Mercury, his winged sandals from 1748, the tomb of Marshal Maurice of Saxony in St. Thomas Church in Strasbourg from 1762 to 1770, and his statue of the nude Voltaire from 1776. Pigalle's attempt to faithfully imitate nature is particularly evident in the latter work. Although he

was one of the most important French sculptors of the mid-18th century, his work had no direct successors. It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that similar tendencies to his art were again taken up.

His works are influenced by both neoclassical and Baroque styles. In 1803, a street in Paris, where he had his studio, was even named after him.

**Literature:**

Thieme-Becker, Künstlerlexikon, Leipzig, Vol. XXVII, pp. 32/34.

Jane Turner, New York 1996, The Dictionary of Art, Vol. 24, pp. 785 - 787