

Pierre LUCAS

(TOULOUSE, 1692 – TOULOUSE, 1752)

LOUIS XV



TERRA COTTA BUST

DIMENSIONS:

HIGHT 45 CM – WIDTH 40 CM (17 ³/₄ IN – 15 ³/₄ IN)

SIGNED ON THE BACK OF THE BASE: *P.LUCAS.F*

27, Quai Voltaire, 75007 Paris

Our terracotta bust represents the King Louis XV. King of France and of Navarre, from the issues from the house of Bourbon, he reigned over the kingdom of France from September 1, 1715 to May 10, 1774.

Known as "Louis the Beloved" among his contemporaries, he is represented here approximately at the age of 35 in all the brightness of the youth on one hand and in a sovereign pace on the other. A laurel torus encircles his head. The forehead develops between the loops of a hair naturally retained at the back by a ribbon forming a knot. Under the perfect eyebrows, his wide-open eyes demonstrate delicacy, intelligence and kindness; the nose, a little fleshy at the base, characteristic in the family of the Bourbons; the modeling of the lips betrays the well-known sensuality of the monarch; the rather elongated chin nicely finishes this beautiful face and gives it an air of great distinction. Represented as king victorious of the War of Austrian Succession, he wears armor, symbol of the apogee of his reign. We recognize the large cord of the order of the Holy Spirit that he carries in saltire as well as the cross placed on the left side of his armor. The drape above would evoke the coronation cape.

We could imagine that the author of this bust, Pierre Lucas was inspired by the famous oil on canvas painted by Quentin de Latour, preserved today in the Louvre (here-below).



Quentin de Latour
Portrait of Louis XV
1748
Oil on canvas
98 x 65 cm
Paris, musée du Louvre



Detail of the signature

Pierre Lucas

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Pierre Hubert Subleyras

Portrait of the sculptor Pierre Lucas

Circa 1725

Oil on canvas

88 x 69 cm

Toulouse, Musée des Augustins

Pierre Lucas belongs to a very present artist family in Toulouse in the eighteenth century.

He is the pupil of Marc Arcis, sculptor of the King and the painter Antoine Rivalz, he realized many ephemeral decors for a rich private clientele of parliamentarians, but also many allegorical and mythological terracotta statues adorning the parks of their castles. For Bernard d'Orbessan, advisor to the Parliament of Toulouse, he realized in 1732, a God Pan and Children riding dolphins sadly mutilated. He also adorned the park of the castle of Saint-Elix. Two statuettes are still visible in the castle, the gods of the wind Zephyr and Boreas.

Recognized artist, he became a member of the Society of Fine Arts, elected in Royal Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture by Louis XV in 1750.