Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Pair of Monumental Italian Majolica Recumbent Lions by Ceccarelli, Circa 1850

£3,450

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REF: 7092

Height: 48 cm (18.9")

Width: 85 cm (33.5")

Depth: 34 cm (13.4")

Description

A magnificent and large-scale pair of mid-19th-century Italian terracotta majolica recumbent lions by Ceccarelli, signed and dating to circa 1850. Modelled as a true pair, one lion turns his head to sinister and the other to dexter, creating a wonderfully balanced and imposing arrangement when displayed together.

Each lion is powerfully sculpted in the round, with a strong, watchful expression, carefully defined mane, muscular limbs, and a sweeping tail. The rich majolica glaze enhances the depth and texture of the modelling, bringing warmth and life to the terracotta beneath. Their dignified, protective stance draws on the long-standing association of lions with strength, guardianship, and prestige.

Made in the tradition of Italian decorative ceramics, these impressive figures would have been intended as ambitious ornamental objects, equally at home in a grand interior, conservatory, entrance hall, or garden setting. Their substantial scale and paired design give them a commanding architectural presence, while the signed Ceccarelli attribution adds particular interest for collectors of 19th-century Italian majolica.

Rarely encountered as a signed, matching pair, these lions offer a striking combination of sculptural quality, decorative impact, and historic charm. They would make an exceptional focal point flanking a doorway, fireplace, garden entrance, or console, and are sure to appeal to collectors of Italian ceramics, animalier sculpture, and distinctive 19th-century decorative arts.

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