

T O M A S S O



Italian (c. 1800 - c. 1830)

A Neoclassical carved vase

Early 19th century

Breccia Africana marble

52 x 37 x 20.5 cm (20 1/2 x 14 5/8 x 8 1/8 inches)

Beautifully preserved, this magnificent vase, carved in Breccia Africana marble, is representative of the Neoclassical taste for all'antica designs. The vase is modelled on a type of ancient bell-shaped krater, the most celebrated examples of which are the monumental Medici Vase, now in the Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, and the Borghese Vase, now in the Louvre Museum, Paris. Standing on a spreading gadrooned base and low square plinth, the elegant shape is characterised by two fluted loop handles and a gadrooned everted lip. Of exceptional quality, the marble is stunningly flecked with patches and veins of deep red, white, and ash grey; its beautifully variegated surface bears a gleaming polish which intensifies the radiance of the vibrant colours. The high quality of the carving, a dazzling display of technical virtuosity, suggests that the vase was produced in an accomplished Italian workshop.