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A charming and high quality pair of French 19th century Louis XVI st. patinated bronze, ormolu and rouge Griotte marble statues signed Clodion. Each small statue is raised by a circular rouge Griotte marble base with a mottled border and a finely beaded and fitted ormolu band. Above the bases, are the two delightful and richly chased patinated bronze cherubs dancing and playing musical instruments. One holds a tambourine above his head while the other is playing a triangle with a pan flute strapped to his side. Claude Michel, aka Clodion (1738 - 1814) A renowned French Master sculptor born in Nancy, France. In 1755, Clodion went to Paris and was a pupil of J. B. Pigalle. In 1759 he obtained the grand prize for sculpture at the Académie Royale; in 1761 the silver medal for studies from models; and in 1762 he went to Rome. Catherine II of Russia was eager for him to go and stay in St Petersburg, but he returned to Paris. Among his patrons, were the chapter of Rouen, the states of Languedoc, and the Direction Générale. His works were frequently exhibited at the Salon. Among Clodion's works, that are displayed all over the world, are a statue of Montesquieu and a Dying Cleopatra, in the Victoria and Albert Museum, (London). One of his last groupings represented Homer as a beggar being driven away by fishermen (1810).





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