Figure

Place of origin: London (made)

Date: ca. 1751-55 (made)

Artist/Maker: Charles Gouyn’s factory (maker)

Materials and Techniques: Glazed white soft-paste porcelain

Credit Line: Given by Lt. Col. Kenneth Dingwall, DSO through Art Fund

Museum number: C.328-1919

Gallery location: Ceramics, Room 139, The Curtain Foundation Gallery, case 3, shelf 7

Public access description

This charming figure of a dancing girl seems to have been copied from the Chelsea model of Columbine of about 1751, which in turn was copied from an original Meissen model of one of the characters in the Italian Commedia dell’Arte. It was made at the small porcelain factory owned by Charles Gouyn, the former partner of Nicholas Sprimont at Chelsea. Gouyn seems to have parted company with Sprimont in about 1747 and there is documentary evidence to suggest that he set up his own porcelain factory in or near to Piccadilly in London and continued to make porcelain until about 1761. It is thought that figures and larger models were only made in the early years, however, and the majority of the factory’s products were small seals, scent bottles and teawares. Gouyn was based in Bennet Street in St James from 1736-83 where he had his own jewellery retailing business.

Descriptive line

Figure of a dancing girl in glazed white soft-paste porcelain, Charles Gouyn’s factory, St James’s, London, ca. 1751-55

Physical description

Figure of a dancer in glazed white soft-paste porcelain. She stands pointing her left foot out and holding out her skirts with both hands. Her neckline, wrists and shoes are decorated with bows. Square base with bevelled edges and corners.

Dimensions

Height: 14.6 cm

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URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O335502/figure-charles-gouyns-factory/