

# Basic Detail Report

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## Triumph of Venus

### Date

19th century

### Primary Maker

Meissen Porcelain Manufactory

### Medium

Porcelain

### Description

Large statue amidst sea with figures, in four sections. Around 1772, Empress Catherine II of Russia ordered forty large porcelain figural groups from the Meissen factory. The groups were to depict scenes from Greek and Roman mythology. The first and arguably the greatest of these was the Triumph of Amphitrite. Amphitrite, a sea goddess

and consort of Poseidon, is identified with Catherine through the crown and scepter. This is a fitting association, as the empress had recently overseen the Russian navy's decisive victory over the Ottoman Empire on the Black Sea. The mythological scenes were modeled between 1772 and 1774 by Johann Joachim Kändler (1706-1775), artistic director of Meissen, and were among his greatest accomplishments. Kändler prepared the drawing of the Triumph of Amphitrite in November 1772, and completed the model in January 1773. The original porcelain objects sent to Catherine were displayed together at the royal residence Oranienbaum for decades. Most of the original objects were either stolen or destroyed in the Russian Revolution of 1917. However, the molds were preserved at Meissen and many were subsequently reproduced in the 19th and 20th centuries.

### Dimensions

Object: 21 × 21 1/2 × 10" (53.3 × 54.6 × 25.4 cm)