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Bisque Porcelain Figurine Nursing Mother (aka Motherhood), by Gardner Manufactory, circa 1870s-90s.

Stands approx. 7 ½" tall, the base is 4 ½ x 4". Rather heavy, weighs over 1.5 lbs. The figurine captures a moment of quietude and perfect harmony when both mother and child are completely fulfilled. Everyone and everything in this group is so basic, so simple, with no room for artifice, and absolutely no need for it.

Maker marked on the bottom. This version of the logo of Gardner manufactory was in use from the 1870s to 1890s. Francis Gardner, an English banker, founded his first porcelain factory in Russia in 1766. It was the first private porcelain factory, competing with the Imperial Porcelain Factory which manufactured fine porcelain exclusively for the Russian Imperial Court.

By the mid-1770s, the Gardner factory was on par with the Imperial Porcelain Factory in terms of quality and artistic merit of their product and won multiple commissions from the Russian Imperial Court. The most prestigious of those were a number of huge magnificent services for royal banquets for the Russian Empress Catherine the Great.

After 1917, the factory was renamed into "Dmitrovo Porcelain Factory". The same masters continued to work there, maintaining the old style and tradition of high standards of quality. In post-Soviet times it was renamed again and is currently known as "Verbilki Porcelain" ("Фарфор Вербилк")

In very good condition, and only because the basket at the feet of the mother has been repaired. The repair is all but invisible on the outside but, unfortunately, rather noticeable inside. However, it can be easily "hidden" by positioning the figurine high enough on the shelf with the basket in the foreground. In all other respects, the figurine is in excellent condition. Amazingly, there is not a single chip, scratch, scuff, or hairline anywhere, not even on the baby's head or the mother's headscarf or elbows. A tiny 1-mm chip to the edge of the base in the back is the start and finish of the list of wear and damage.

A charming, mesmerizingly realistic ambience piece, very hard to look away from. A true gem for a collection of Russian Imperial porcelain!

Please note that the penny in the basket in our last photo is for size reference.

Item# 41174

\$1,150.00

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