



18th Century Antique

A rare, Irish, mid-18th century, statuary marble chimneypiece originally from 44 Stafford Street, now 44 Wolfe Tone Street, owned by Theobald Wolfe Tone (1763-1798), the father of Irish Republicanism. Circa 1750.

Originating from a basic, English Palladian pattern after a William Kent, Flitcroft design which was copied from one of the numerous engraved pattern books printed at the time, but reworked by an unknown Irish architect who has given it a uniquely quirky, eclectic touch so typical of Irish designers. It has rococo inspired carved decoration and the plain frieze is centred with a scallop shell, an attribute of Venus, the Goddess of love and fertility, suggesting it might well have been designed to celebrate a marriage. The jambs are of curved, flattened form and are decorated with scrolling volutes and acanthus tendrils, the whole raised on rectangular foot blocks.

Dimensions

Height 60¼in (153cm) width 69in (175.3cm)

Internal height 46in (116.9cm) width 46¼in (117.5cm)

Total depth 6½in (16.6cm)

Reference

G297