



COUTURE EDITION – PANTALONE

Design: 1759/60

Decor: Ralph Rucci, 2008

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*height 18 cm · product no. 18.967*

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PORZELLAN MANUFAKTUR NYMPHENBURG

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In the Commedia dell'Arte, Pantalone represents a rich, avaricious Venetian merchant. He always carries all his money around with him, distrustfully hiding it beneath his coat behind him. Though stricken by gout and age, he still leers at every passing woman. Ralph Rucci's design virtually petrifies Bustelli's Pantalone. The figure takes on the appearance of an ancient gnarled tree or weathered rock.

The whole design is mantled with vertical rows of Chinese-like characters, which as timeless ciphers of an alien culture bear witness to Pantalone's worldliness and extensive travels, at the same time emphasising the importance of Far Eastern influences on Ralph Rucci's fashion house. In 1994, Rucci renamed the latter Chado Ralph Rucci after the Japanese tea ceremony (chado), drawn by the qualities such as respect, grace and calm that it embodies.

The characters on the Pantalone figure are created individually with a fine scalpel once the layers of painting have been completed; the paint is scratched off with great precision so that the bare porcelain underneath shows through again, a kind of archaeological investigation into the deeper layers and history of the figure.

To convey the specific atmosphere he had in mind, Rucci handed the manufactory various materials for the painting – his own watercolours, fabric patterns based on old Chinese plates, and even a blown-out eggshell on which he provided examples of the colours and the technique for incising the characters – probably the most unusual sample ever used at Nymphenburg in the elaboration of a design!

Individual figures are only available with Limit No. 16 – 25. It is not possible to order specific numbers. The figures will be supplied with a certificate in a gift box specially designed for the collection.

