

# COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Real Fabbrica Ferdinanda,  
Naples

*Four figures of Neapolitan  
characters originally designed  
to accompany the Servizio delle  
Vedute Napolitane, also known  
as The Servizio del'Oca*

c. 1792 - 1800

porcelain

Each 18 x 5 x 5 cm.;

Each 7 1/8 x 2 x 2 in.

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## Provenance

Fiordalisi Collection.

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## Literature

The fashionable gentleman: A. Caròla-Perrotti, *Le Porcellane dei Borbone di Napoli: Capodimonte e Real Fabbrica Ferdinanda, 1743-1806*, Naples 1986, no. 504.

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## Exhibited

The fashionable gentleman: Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale, *Le Porcellane dei Borbone di Napoli: Capodimonte e Real Fabbrica Ferdinanda 1743-1806*, 19 December 1986 - 30 April 1987.

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In the 1780s Ferdinand IV built the Villa Comunale, which originally housed the Farnese sculptures, and a large park from land reclaimed from the sea on the coast between Naples and the port of Mergellina. The *Passeggio Reale* (fig. 1) - or Royal Promenade in the park - was originally reserved just for the nobility, but was opened to the wealthy bourgeoisie of Naples for special holidays such as the *Festa di Piedigrotta*.

A centrepiece celebrating the people of Naples was created for the dessert service commissioned by the King in 1792 from his porcelain factory, The Real Fabbrica Ferdinanda, to accompany the *Servizio delle Vedute Napolitane*, also known as the *Servizio dell'Oca*. This large table-centrepiece comprised standing figures and seated groups representing the Neapolitan bourgeoisie in contemporary fashions, promenading in the *Real Passeggio* in a gently satirical way. One document records that 75 accompanying figures were made; the originals supplied to the court were coloured but further examples, coloured and white, were sold.

The present figure of a lady is traditionally (but probably incorrectly) thought to represent Emma, Lady Hamilton.

A similar figure to our peasant or sailor but with the incised signature *Aniello*, for the modeller Aniello Ingaldi, is illustrated by Angela Caròla-Perrotti.<sup>1</sup> A coloured example of the figure of the elderly lady is illustrated by Alessandra Mottola Molfino.<sup>2</sup>

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**Figure 1.** *Real Passegio*, Naples

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## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> A. Caròla-Perrotti, *La Porcellana della Real Fabbrica Ferdinanda: 1771 – 1806*, Naples 1978, nos. 183-184.

<sup>2</sup> A. Mottola Molfino, *L'arte della Porcellane in Italia: Il Piemonte, Rome e Napoli*, Busto Arsizio 1977, no. 325, along with a group incorporating the same figure (no. 328).