



ANTIQUÉ C. 1879 WEDGWOOD MAJOLICA CHERUB PLATE OWNED BY ANDRÉ LEON TALLEY

ALT-014

Antique c.1879 Wedgwood Majolica plate with a storied heritage and provenance, owned by legendary fashion icon André Leon Talley! Perfect for the "hostess with the mostest" who loves to entertain in high-style with fabulous stories to tell!

The reverse is marked with pattern #M2829 and impressed with "WGH" indicating the production date of 1879. This "Alexandra Centre" pattern was introduced around 1878-1880, featuring angels and cherubs surrounding a mottled center. It was created in the "Argenta" style, referring to its softer color palette on an ivory ground, popularized by Wedgwood in the 1870s. It was a shift from the bright hues of Victorian ceramic wares, a response to the changing tastes where the deeper colors of earlier Majolica were starting to fall out of style.

André Leon Talley (1948-2022) was one of the fashion world's first African-American Tastemakers! A 6'-6" tall, elegant and flamboyant fashion celebrity with impeccable style, easily recognized by his signature capes and kaftans. For 60 years, he was an integral part of fashion history and culture as a journalist, author, stylist, creative director and editor-at-large.

His career began in 1974 when he interned at the MET's Costume Institute, apprenticing under legendary fashion magazine editor Diana Vreeland. They created magic on and off stage, sharing a life of fashion and friendship. After the MET, he took his first job out of college working at Andy Warhol's Factory, through Vreeland's



introduction. He answered Warhol's phone, which opened the door to NYC's most glamorous socialites. Although private, during the 70's he was a regular participant of Studio 54's disco scene boogie dancing with models, designers, artists, and celebs. After Warhol's Factory, he went to Paris to run Women's Wear Daily, then Vogue Magazine. He was Vogue's first African-American Creative Director, then Editor-at-Large. He broke boundaries in an industry dominated by white women. A prominent diversity advocate on and off the runway, supporting emerging designers and models.

He had swanky southern charm and style, spoke French eloquently and loved his church, a very soulful person with a big heart. Raised in the (then) segregated deep south by his strict loving grandmother who worked as a maid at Duke University. Church was the most important thing in their life. André's childhood was wonderful and complex, despite impoverished beginnings he earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University and a master's from Brown (both) in French Literature. When he first arrived in NYC, he and Diane von Furstenberg became and remained close friends like family. When he nearly lost everything to pay off debts, including his colonial home on 75 Worthington Rd, White Plains, NY - Furstenberg lovingly took care of his financial situation. Almost immediately following that, he died in the hospital with COVID. Shortly after, the street on which he lived for 18 years was re-named to "André Leon Talley Way" in his honor. It is this estate that this plate was acquired from.

We know it's hard to find one-of-a-kind pieces! Shop our listings for new inventory curated from an Interior Architect and Designer's POV. THE TASTEMAKER SHOPPE offers an exclusive mix of furnishings founded solely on good taste, not limited by any style or era!

9" Diam x 1"H

