Boulle Desk, Napoleon III



9 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gilted wood

Width : 118 cm

Height : 76 cm

Depth : 73 cm

Description

Royal Antique proudly presents this remarkable Boulle desk from the Napoleon III period (mid-19th century), exemplifying the luxury and exquisite craftsmanship characteristic of this era. This exquisite piece is distinguished by its intricate marquetry and the sophisticated use of contrasting materials, both of which reflect the exceptional skill and artistry of the period.Materials and Construction:Ebony and Brass Marquetry: The desk is constructed from a solid ebony frame, magnificently veneered with finely crafted brass marquetry. The brass is meticulously shaped into elaborate floral scrolls and geometric patterns, demonstrating the precision and technical expertise of the artisan. This intricate technique, known as "Boulle marquetry," is named after the esteemed French

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cabinetmaker André-Charles Boulle, who perfected it in the 17th century. The striking juxtaposition of dark ebony and gleaming brass creates an unmistakable sense of grandeur and opulence.Gilt Bronze Mounts: The desk is richly adorned with finely chased gilt bronze (ormolu) mounts. These are prominently applied to the substantial, tapering legs, the keyholes, and other hardware. Notably, a central gilded bronze medallion with a classical mask and scrollwork enhances the desk's facade. The legs are further embellished with highly sculptural acanthus and foliate mounts, extending to the feet.Fine Leather Writing Surface: The top of the desk features a fine leather writing surface, combining practicality with an elegant, sophisticated finish, often bordered by further brass inlay or gilt bronze.Decorative Elements:Intricate Floral Marquetry: The facade (apron and drawer fronts) and parts of the top surface are decorated with intricate floral marquetry, highlighting the skillful craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail.Elaborate Apron and Stretcher: The desk features a curved apron to the front, embellished with central gilt bronze ornamentation, and a robust X-form stretcher base with a central medallion and further bronze detailing.This Boulle desk stands as a testament to the high level of craftsmanship and design that defines the Napoleon III style. Its refined materials, expert construction, and timeless beauty make it a highly valuable piece for any distinguished collector or connoisseur of fine furniture. It is an exceptional statement piece that would elevate any sophisticated interior.