



4 Seasons Frame - Golden Wood - Italy (florence) - Circa 1600



45 000 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gilted wood

Width : 47 cm

Height : 52 cm

Depth : 10 cm

Description

This exceptional gilded wooden frame is a work from the end of the 16th century. Its figures are carved in high relief in the mass and represent the four seasons. The theme of the four seasons has fascinated civilizations since Late Antiquity.

Previously, the year was divided into three parts corresponding to the climatic conditions of countries such as Greece or Egypt. It is likely that the quadripartite year was adopted at the time of research on the course of the sun by Babylonian and Greek scholars. This solar calendar has four fixed points which are the summer and winter solstices and the spring and autumn equinoxes. These fixed points correspond to the middle of a season and the four seasons then symbolize the stops of the sun in the circular trajectory of the year. These four periods also divide important

Dealer

Galerie Alexandre Piatti

Works of art, sculptures and Haute Epoque furniture

Mobile : +33 (0)6 70 95 38 06

11 rue de Beaune

Paris 75007

moments in the daily life of men, which is why the iconography of the seasons is often anthropomorphic. Generally speaking, spring, summer and autumn are represented by female figures while winter often has a more complex personification. In our setting, spring is associated with flowers, summer with ears of wheat and autumn with vines. Winter is associated with hunting with a male figure accompanied by a dog, because this season is associated with the animal kingdom. In the four corners of the frame are sculpted masks that refer to grotesque art. During the Renaissance, several artists produced decorative compositions that imitated ancient decorations such as that of Nero's Palace, the Domus aurea. These decorations include mascarons representing extravagant figures. At the time of Mannerism, grotesques were still very widespread, and this, until the Counter-Reformation. The mascarons of the frame remind us of that of the Fontana dello Sprone in Florence, sculpted by Bernardo Buontalenti. Thus, this gilded wooden frame has the characteristics of the figurative arts of the late Renaissance with a theme typical of the period and motifs that refer to grotesque art.