Talismanic Rock Crystal And Silver Crabs' Eye Pendant. Germany, 17th Century.



2 600 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Crystal de roche

Description

Talismanic Rock Crystal and Silver Crabs' Eye Pendant. Germany, late 17th century. Measurements: 3.8 × 1.7 × 1.4 cm. Weight: 8.2 grams. The exterior of the pendant is adorned with finely faceted, fluted teardrop-shaped panels of clear rock crystal, each mounted within a silver setting of scalloped dog's-tooth profile. Both sides of the pendant open to reveal two hollowed, hemispherical compartments carved directly into the crystal. These compartments are separated by a central silver partition that serves as a lid, once used to secure the pendant's precious contents. The upper terminal is fitted with a pendant suspension ring, while the lower end is decorated with a small globular finial. Although now empty, the hollowed recesses were designed to contain crabs' eyes--calcified concretions once believed to

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possess powerful protective and curative properties. These amulets were widely used across early modern Europe to ward off poison, disease, and malign influence, drawing upon traditions of natural magic, apothecary practice, and sympathetic medicine. The pairing of rock crystal and crabs' eyes reflects an enduring belief in the purity and efficacy of natural substances, enclosed and worn close to the body for continuous effect. Comparisons:A comparable example was sold by in Lempertz, Cologne, Silver, 15 November 2024, lot 577: A silver-gilt mounted crayfish eye amulet - https://www.lempertz.com/en/catalogues/lot/1253-1/577-a-silver-gilt-mounted-crayfish-eye-amulet.html.