



Double-sided Coral And Gold Devotional Pendant. Sicily, 17th Century.



4 950 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Coral

Description

Double-Sided Coral and Gold Devotional Pendant. Sicily, first quarter of the 17th century. Measurements: $3.6 \times 2.5 \times 1.3$ cm (excluding gold bail). Weight: 7 grams. This finely carved devotional pendant is executed in high-relief coral and set within a twisted high carat gold frame. One side depicts the Annunciation, with the Archangel Gabriel gesturing toward the Virgin Mary in a dynamic and intimate composition. On the reverse, the Holy Family is portrayed with Joseph, Mary, and the Christ Child in close proximity, rendered with expressive modelling and a high degree of detail, characteristic of Sicilian craftsmanship of the early Baroque period. Coral carving flourished in 17th-century Sicily, particularly in Trapani, where artisans produced devotional objects for

Dealer

Belle Histoire

Early European sculpture, works of art and jewellery

Tel : +44 (0) 7906 300197

58 Davies Street

London W1K 5LP

both private and ecclesiastical use. The pendant's small scale and bilateral imagery suggest it once formed part of a personal rosary or devotional necklace, designed to be handled during prayer. The use of Mediterranean red coral--valued both for its beauty and apotropaic properties--underscores its spiritual and protective function. Comparisons Comparable pendants can be found in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (Museum reference: A.1923.675), and the British Museum, London (Museum number: 1965,0601.1), both of which preserve similar Sicilian coral carvings of religious scenes in high-relief, set in gold mounts.