



Boule Chests Of Drawers 19th Century, Napoleon III Style



6 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Wood marquetry

Length : 88 cm

Width : 43 cm

Height : 113 cm

Description

We are delighted to present a truly exceptional example of 19th-century French cabinetmaking: a magnificent Boule marquetry cabinet, an iconic masterpiece of the opulent Napoleon III era. This period, characterized by a fervent resurgence of historical styles, saw the "Boule" technique reach new heights of complexity and grandeur, echoing the sumptuous tastes of the French Second Empire. Incomparable Craftsmanship and Materials: Crafted primarily from deeply stained ebonized wood, giving it a luxurious and profound presence, this cabinet is a tour de force of artisan skill. Its defining feature is the meticulously executed Boule marquetry, a sophisticated inlay technique that layers precious materials to create intricate designs. The central door, a captivating focal point, is adorned with

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vibrant red tortoiseshell, serving as a rich background for exquisite gilt-bronze inlays of classical foliage and graceful arabesques. This dynamic interplay of materials creates a mesmerizing visual depth that instantly captivates. Ornate Gilt Bronze Fittings: The cabinet is lavishly embellished with a profusion of finely cast and chased gilt bronze mountings, a hallmark of its high quality and period authenticity. A prominent female mascarón, with elegantly sculpted features and flowing hair, perhaps adorned with pearls, takes center stage on the main door. This striking motif is flanked by two smaller, equally detailed facial compositions interwoven with delicate foliate motifs. Above and below, additional expressive faces add to the piece's classical narrative. The four corners of the central panel are superbly decorated with stylized carnations in full bloom, symbolizing beauty and renewal, masterfully rendered in bronze.

Exceptional Detail and Design: Beyond the central door, the architectural form of the cabinet is enhanced by sturdy gilt-bronze caryatids, depicting classically draped female figures, their graceful forms adding to the sculptural quality of the piece. The lower portion of the cabinet features a continuous pattern of elegantly curled acanthus leaves and other decorative motifs, all precisely executed in gilt bronze, culminating in sophisticated paw feet. Even the side panels contribute to the narrative, with detailed depictions of classically draped female figures, subtly highlighting the artistic and cultural appreciation of the female form within the historical context. This Boulle marquetry cabinet is not just a piece of furniture; it is a significant work of art, representing a pinnacle of 19th-century decorative arts. Its historical significance, combined with its exquisite craftsmanship and the enduring appeal of the Boulle style, makes it a valuable addition to any discerning collection or a breathtaking focal point in a luxurious interior. A wise investment, this piece is bound to appreciate in value, offering

both aesthetic pleasure and a tangible legacy.