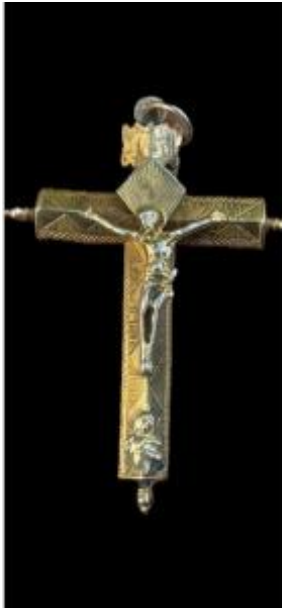




Pectoral Cross. Spain, 17th Century.



450 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 4

Height : 6

Description

A 17th-century Spanish pectoral cross, made of finely crafted silver and entirely gilded with fine gold (vermeil). The obverse features the crucified Christ in relief, radiating beneath a broad radiant nimbus, surmounted by the titulus "INRI." The lower section depicts the Virgin in prayer at the foot of the Cross. The obverse is richly decorated with engraved geometric motifs. The reverse features an engraved diamond-shaped and hatched decoration, typical of Iberian goldwork of the period. This type of cross, known as a pectoral, was intended to be worn on the chest by high-ranking clergymen (bishops, abbots, superiors of religious orders) or sometimes by Spanish brotherhoods and prelates. A symbol of their spiritual function and authority, it also served as an intimate devotional object, worn on

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the chest during liturgical celebrations, processions, and major religious festivals. Its size and richness of ornamentation reflected the prestige of the wearer while affirming his piety. Unhallmarked silver (common use in Spain in the 17th century, official hallmarks were not yet systematic), but silver control carried out. Beautiful period gilding, slightly patinated, offering a superb contrast between the polished parts and the engraved areas. Representative piece of Spanish religious goldsmithing of the Golden Age.