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Enamelled Silver Egg, Imperial Russia, Ca. 1870-1890



2 300 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Sterling silver

Diameter : 5.5

Height : 7.5

Description

Elegant decorative egg in enamelled silver, probably crafted in Moscow during the second half of the 19th century, in the Imperial period. The piece, of refined taste and clear technical mastery, features a deep cobalt-blue translucent enamel, enriched with gilt silver details and finely chased ornaments.The surface displays graceful vegetal and heraldic motifs, including a gilded double-headed eagle, emblem of the Russian Empire. The top is adorned with a green-enameled flower with a pink central stone, while the base holds a grey agate cabochon.The gilded interior shows small floral fixings, one of which is missing. Minor chips to the blue enamel testify to an old fall or impact, yet the overall appearance remains elegant and harmonious.The rim bears the hallmark "88" within a rectangular

Dealer

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cartouche, indicating silver of 88 zolotniks (916 ?), used in Russia until 1896. Next to it appears a second punch with Cyrillic letters "??" (M-Sh), most likely referring to Mikhail Dmitrievich Shein, silversmith active in Moscow between 1867 and 1888, known for his refined translucent enamels.The city and assay mark seem partly abraded, yet their layout matches Moscow silverwork of the same era.Technical detailsMaterial: silver 916 ? (hallmarked 88), translucent blue enamel, gilt interiorStones: agate cabochon; small decorative stones (likely paste or zircons, to be verified)Dimensions: height 7.5 cm - diameter 5.5 cmTotal weight: 165 gProvenance: private collection, ItalyPeriod: Imperial Russia, circa 1870-1890Attribution: probable Moscow workshop; hallmarks related to Mikhail Dmitrievich SheinConditionGood overall condition; some small enamel losses and a missing inner floral fitting.Light oxidations consistent with age.ContextThe "88" mark confirms Imperial Russian manufacture, while the "??" initials suggest a likely connection with Moscow silversmithing and possibly the workshop of Mikhail Shein.Works of this type, distinguished by refined enamels and Imperial symbolism, belong to the pre-Fabergé tradition of 19th-century Russian luxury silverwork.---For further information, photographs or technical details, please feel free to contact us.Worldwide shipping available with professional packaging.