



"sorcière" Mirror In Gilded Wood, 19th Century



1 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gilded wood

Width : cm. 45,5

Height : cm. 60,5

Description

"Sorcière" Mirror in Gilded Wood, 19th Century

A rare oval convex mirror, known as a "sorcière," dating to the second half of the 19th century. The frame is finely carved and gilded, enriched with an elegant pearl decoration along the interior and a series of fluted motifs on the outer band. The imposing pastiglia moulding features rocaille scrolls, flowers, and acanthus leaves, in the late Louis XVI style, with ornamental elements typical of late-19th-century French taste. The convex mirror, originally used to broaden perspective and reflect light, gives the object a theatrical and decorative appeal.

In good overall condition, with slight signs of aging on the gilding.

Dealer

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The "sorcière" is an object rich in charm and symbolism, often found in old master paintings, especially between the 15th and 17th centuries.

Perhaps the most famous painting featuring a convex mirror is by Jan van Eyck, "The Arnolfini Couple" (1434). At the center of the back wall of the painting is a small convex mirror that reflects the entire scene, including the painter himself.

It symbolizes the divine presence, truth, and also the testimony of the depicted scene.

Function and symbolism: It amplified the light and allowed a broad view of the space (used in bourgeois homes). A symbol of omniscience, vanitas (the transience of life), or even magical protection in popular belief.

In France, it earned the name miroir de sorcière (witch's mirror) precisely because of this aura of mystery and power.

Epoch: Louis-Philippe

Measurements: 60.5 x 45.5 cm