



Masquerade Ring Concealing A Lover's Inscription. Western Europe, Circa 1760.

10 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Gold



Description

A Gem Set Masquerade Ring Concealing a Lover's Inscription. Western Europe, possibly Italy, circa 1760. Measurements Bezel: 0.9×0.8 cm. Ring size: N UK / 6.75 US / 54 EU. Weight: 2.3 grams. Materials: High-carat gold, silver, enamel, diamonds, ruby. This characterful masquerade ring is finely modelled with a black-and-white enameled mask, the features animated by rose-cut diamond eyes and a small ruby set into the open mouth. The head is framed by a serrated gold collet and flanked by silver foliate clusters each set with a further rose-cut diamond. The shank is composed of high-carat gold, formed as asymmetrical rococo scrolls with pierced and chased detailing throughout. The enamel remains entirely original and unrestored. The reverse of the bezel is open,

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revealing white enamel engraved with faint traces of an original inscription. Though now largely worn, it would likely have borne a concealed love sentiment, comparable to the formula *Je cache mes amours* ("I mask my love"), found on related rings of mid-18th-century manufacture. The theme of the masked lover -- drawn from contemporary masquerade culture and its associations with flirtation, secrecy, and clandestine courtship -- here transforms the jewel into a witty and intimate token. Comparisons A closely related example is published in *Rings: Alice and Louis Koch Collection*, plate 852, p. 261 (Anna Beatriz Chadour). See also *The Power of Love: Jewels, Romance and Eternity*, fig. 20a-b, p. 73 (Beatriz Chadour Sampson), for a similar ring bearing the inscription *Je cache mes amours*.