Miniature On Ivory Depicting Indian Rulers, India, 19th Century



6 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Width : 11,4 cm.

Height : 15,5 cm.

Description

A rare and precious oval composition of nine finely painted ivory miniatures, arranged symmetrically around a central scene. The eight side miniatures depict portraits of four Maharajas and their respective wives, portrayed with great elegance and sumptuous ornamentation: headdresses set with precious stones, pearl necklaces, and magnificent garments enhanced with gold motifs and colored enamels. At the center unfolds a Mughal court scene: a sovereign sits enthroned in a lavish pavilion, surrounded by dignitaries and ambassadors who have come to pay him homage. The composition, of remarkable decorative and perspectival precision, evokes the splendor of the palaces of Delhi and Agra. The subject may represent Emperor Bahadur Shah II (reigned until 1857), receiving his courtiers in the

Dealer

Dario Ghio Antiquités
Antique silver selected, Objets de vertu
Tel : +377.97704018

25, Bd. Princesse Charlotte
Monaco 98000

Durbar Hall. Among the figures, one stands out: a man in a Western uniform, wearing a bicorn hat and a red scarf, of European style--undoubtedly a British officer or an emissary of the East India Company. His presence, alongside the Indian dignitaries, suggests an allusion to episodes of diplomacy or ceremonial submission, characteristic of the late Mughal period, marked by increasingly close ties with the British colonial power. The miniatures are distinguished by their exceptional pictorial quality, with vivid and translucent colors, meticulous details, and the refined use of gold in the ornamental motifs and arabesques separating the medallions. Each face is rendered with a delicacy and individuality that testify to the very high technical and artistic level of the artist, probably a skilled miniaturist from the Delhi or Lucknow school. The entire set, protected by glass, is unframed, allowing the buyer the opportunity to choose a custom frame to suit their taste or décor. A work of great finesse and rare oriental charm, representative of the art of Indian miniature painting of the late Mughal period, made for high-ranking patrons or for the European collector market of the 19th century. Dimensions: h. 15.5 x 11.4 cm.