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Double-sided Processional Icon Of The Virgin And Saint Nicholas, Russia, 19th Century



1 850 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Height : 116 cm

Description

A beautiful and rare double-sided processional icon depicting the Mother of God of Vladimir on one side and Saint Nicholas on the other. Dating from the mid-19th century, it originates from Central Russia. One side shows Mary tenderly embracing her son, cheek to cheek. This iconographic representation is of the "eleousa" type, meaning compassion in Greek. It symbolizes infinite love. The expressions, of great gentleness, invite contemplation and serenity. On the other side, Saint Nicholas, known as the "miracle worker," is depicted in bust form, wearing his bishop's robes. He blesses with his right hand and holds the Bible in the other. Both paintings are delicately executed in tempera (egg yolk-based paint) in a predominantly pale green and red palette. The

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icon is in good overall condition with a lovely patina. There is some wear consistent with age, including craquelure and small losses in the right corners (see photos). Rare original wooden handle, showing no signs of fragility or insect damage. Most of the time, the handles on processional icons are cut off at the base of the icon. This artwork is sold with its certificate of authenticity and a full description. Dimensions: Total height with handle: 116 cm Height of icon only: 42.5 cm Width of icon only: 35.5 cm