



Pair Of Trompe L'oeil Panels Featuring Portraits Of Empress Marie-louise, Italy, C. 1850-1880



6 500 EUR

Signature : Monogramme M et A entrelacé et renversé
(Recherche en cours)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on cardboard

Length : 65

Height : 50

Description

Pair of Trompe l'oeil Panels Featuring Portraits of Empress Marie-Louise, Italy, c. 1850-1880

Description: This pair of panels, created in Italy between 1850 and 1880,

represents an artistic curiosity from the second half of the 19th century. They ingeniously combine collaged prints and trompe-l'oeil painting, inspired by 18th-century aesthetics. The background, mimicking a framed wooden board, is skillfully rendered: painted shadows and borders create an illusion of depth on the flat surface. The first panel is centered on an engraved portrait of Marie-Louise, after Jean-Baptiste Isabey (1767-1855). It is surrounded by prints depicting historic views of Parma, including the Taro Bridge--built at the Empress's initiative--a city map, a Gazzetta di Parma dated February 22,

Dealer

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1826, and a decree issued by Marie-Louise. These documents, "affixed" with painted nails, enhance the trompe-l'oeil effect. The second panel follows a similar arrangement, featuring an engraved portrait of Marie-Louise by Giovanni Rocca (1788-1858), this time accompanied by a *Gazetta di Parma* from June 26, 1826. On both panels, the artist placed objects--a chamberlain's key bearing the Archduchess's cypher, a quill, and a pair of spectacles--to further emphasize the trompe-l'oeil illusion.

Technical Note: Unlike traditional trompe-l'oeil works, which are entirely painted, these panels incorporate both prints and painting, a technique comparable to that seen in two works held at the Musée Carnavalet: *Trompe-l'oeil with Assignats* (anonymous, after 1792, inv. G.29858) and *Trompe-l'oeil with Assignats and Spectacles* (L. C. François, engraver, after 1795, inv. G.29862).

Intertwined M and A monogram (Research in progress)

Dimensions: Unframed: Height 19 5/8 in - Length 25 5/8 in. Framed: Height 24 in - Length 30 in.

Provenance: Private Italian collection.

Condition: Excellent original condition.

Related Works: Anonymous, *Trompe-l'oeil with Assignats*, after 1792, 18th century, Paris, Musée Carnavalet (inv. G.29858). François, L. C. (engraver), *Trompe-l'oeil with Assignats and Spectacles*, after 1795, 18th century, Paris, Musée Carnavalet (inv. G.29862).

Bibliographical Reference: *Trompe-l'oeil from 1520 to the Present*, [exhibition, Paris, Musée Marmottan Monet, October 17, 2024 - March 2, 2025], edited by Sylvie Carlier and Aurélie Gavaille, Musée Marmottan, Paris, 2024.