



Chinese Carved Ivory Box - China, Canton - Qing Dynasty, Mid-19th Century

2 400 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Ivory

Length : 27,5 cm

Width : 15,5 cm

Height : 14 cm

Description

Chinese Export Box in Carved Ivory - China, Canton, mid-19th century. Important rectangular wooden box entirely covered with ivory plaques carved in low relief, made in Canton (Guangzhou) for the Western export market, circa 1840-1860, Qing dynasty. Each face, as well as the lid, features a complex, compartmentalized narrative decoration. The main central scenes, carved in relief, depict idealized Chinese landscapes with pagodas, pavilions, horsemen, and foot figures, set within a completely wooded environment. These main panels are complemented by smaller secondary scenes situated on the same axis and theme, creating a continuous narrative. The scene frames are an integral part of the panels themselves and are carved in ivory in continuity with the motifs:

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festoons, spearheads, curves, and wave effects emphasize the main compositions. The corners and sides of the casket are adorned with hand-carved floral motifs, also within adjoining frames, which complement the overall decorative scheme. Between these figurative panels are plaques with repetitive geometric patterns; these are bordered by molded ivory strips, providing a subtle contrast and a refined structure to the whole. Condition: The ivory has a uniform, slightly yellowed, antique patina, without cracks. There are a few small losses of ivory that do not detract from the overall good presentation. The entire piece rests on a wooden core, ensuring its strength and preservation. Both decorative and functional, it was likely used as a jewelry or precious object box, intended for the Western market, reflecting the exceptional craftsmanship of Cantonese workshops of the period.

Dimensions: - Length: 27.5 cm - Width: 15.5 cm

- Height: 14 cm Period: China, Qing Dynasty,

circa 1840-1860 Provenance: Canton

(Guangzhou) workshops Materials: carved ivory, wood