



Heart-shaped Diamond And Enamel Love Ring. Western Europe, 17th Century.

6 400 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Gold



Description

Heart-shaped diamond and enamel love ring. Western Europe, 17th century. Measurements: Ring size J½ (UK) / US 5 / EU 49.5; weight 2.1 g. Description. A small 17th-century gold love ring centred on a heart-shaped cartouche set with a rose-cut diamond in a closed bezel. The heart is decorated with blue enamel to both front and reverse; much of the original blue remains though with losses. The half-round band is joined to the setting by carved shoulders; the piece is mounted in gold and retains its intimate scale and fine modelling typical of personal jewellery of the period. The rose-cut diamond is set back within the heart; it remains secure in its bezel and is in original, untouched condition. Condition. Original condition; no restorations. Notable losses to the

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blue enamel; diamond intact and setting secure. Provenance. English Art Market. Remarks. The heart motif and applied blue enamel identify the object as a love ring of the 17th century. These symbols represented love and fidelity. The ring was likely a token of love symbolising everlasting devotion, or possibly a betrothal ring. The presence of a rose-cut diamond -- a highly valued and comparatively rare gem in early modern European jewellery -- would have conferred significant material and social value on the wearer. Historically such early diamonds were commonly sourced from the Golconda region of India; while the specific origin of the present stone cannot be demonstrated here, its form and setting are consistent with seventeenth-century practice. References. A closely related enameled heart ring in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum (acc. no. M.224-1975) shows a heart motif enclosing a bezel-set diamond (c.1600-1650). See also the published catalogue entry by Diana Scarisbrick for the collection of Benjamin Zucker, which illustrates comparable enameled examples of seventeenth-century composition.