



## Table Mirror In Gilt Bronze And Cloisonné Enamel, Decorated With Doves, Napoleon III



1 650 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 21 cm

Height : 31 cm

### Description

#### Historical and stylistic context

This table mirror belongs to the decorative arts production of Second Empire France (Napoleon III period, circa 1860-1880), a time characterized by stylistic eclecticism and refined craftsmanship in the decorative arts.

During this period, objects intended for boudoirs and dressing tables were often conceived as luxury decorative pieces, combining the traditional art of gilt bronze mounting with elaborate enamel decoration. Such mirrors were typically placed on vanity tables or dressing consoles, forming part of the refined interior arrangements of bourgeois and aristocratic homes.

#### Structure and materials

The mirror is set within a finely chased and

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gilded bronze frame of oval form. It is equipped with an articulated rear support allowing it to stand freely on a surface, while a ring at the top enables it to be displayed either as a tabletop mirror or hung on a wall.

Surrounding the mirror plate is a wide band of polychrome enamel decoration, executed in a technique closely related to cloisonné or champlevé enamel, widely used in high-quality French decorative objects of the nineteenth century.

The decoration features a turquoise ground enriched with stylized foliate scrolls and small berries, rendered in tones of green, red, and violet. The golden outlines emphasize the delicate ornamental network and enhance the luminous effect of the enamel.

#### Sculptural decoration and iconography

The lower part of the frame is adorned with sculptural gilt bronze elements featuring two doves in the round, positioned symmetrically on either side of the mirror. In nineteenth-century decorative symbolism, the dove traditionally represents peace, harmony, and fidelity, themes often associated with boudoir objects.

These sculptural elements are complemented by rocaille scrolls and stylized foliage, reflecting the persistent influence of Louis XV decorative vocabulary, which was frequently revived during the Napoleon III period.

The upper section of the frame is crowned with an ornamental cartouche and vegetal garlands, a decorative arrangement reminiscent of miniature architectural ornament typical of luxury objects from the Second Empire.

#### Quality of craftsmanship

The piece demonstrates a refined level of craftsmanship, particularly visible in the finely chased bronze detailing of the birds' feathers, leaves, and ornamental cartouches. The gilt surface retains a pleasant antique patina that highlights the sculptural relief.

The enamel decoration is carefully executed and evenly applied, suggesting production within a

specialized decorative arts workshop active during the second half of the nineteenth century.

#### Function and display

Originally intended for placement on a dressing table or boudoir console, the mirror could be adjusted thanks to its articulated support. The suspension ring also allows it to be used as a decorative wall mirror.

Its relatively compact dimensions combined with the richness of its decoration make it both a functional object and a refined decorative accent typical of Napoleon III interior design.

#### Condition

Very good original condition.

The gilding and enamel are well preserved with a consistent age-related patina. The mirror plate appears original and the structure remains stable and functional.

#### Dimensions:

height - 31 cm

width - 21 cm