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Frame - Reliquary In Carved Wood With Rocaille Décor And Angel Heads,



3 600 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Gilted wood

Width : 53,5 cm

Height : 80,5 cm

Depth : 12,5 cm

Description

Important Baroque reliquary frame of outstanding craftsmanship and dimensions. The richly carved wooden structure features a lively, asymmetrical outline, adorned with abundant acanthus and scroll decoration. The original gilding, now partially worn, gives the surface a lively patina and underlines the sculpture's plastic depth. The frame is embellished with several angel heads (putti) sculpted in the round, integrated into the moving decoration, accentuating the sacred character of the whole. The top part is crowned by a shell-shaped cartouche, centered by an angel's head, a motif typical of Baroque art, Tirol circa 1700. In the center is a glass niche housing a Pietà finely modeled in wax: the Virgin, in an attitude of contemplation, supports the body of the dead Christ. The delicacy of the modeling,

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particularly in the treatment of flesh and faces imbued with gentleness and interiority, testifies to remarkable craftsmanship, probably stemming from the conventual tradition of wax sculpture. The scene is surrounded by a dense assemblage of relic particles, integrated into a refined décor of silver threads, bouillon embroidery, textile elements and colored stones or glassware. Small inscribed banners (some of which are difficult to read) identify the relics. This arrangement corresponds to the Baroque practice of presenting relics not only as devotional objects, but also as elaborate visual compositions. The combination of wood carving, wax modeling and reliquary arrangement makes this work a characteristic, but particularly accomplished, example of devotional art from central Europe (southern Germany/Austria) in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Comparable works are known in the context of Salzburg workshops and monasteries. Good used condition, with gilding wear, small gaps and internal alterations due to age. A highly decorative set worthy of museum interest.