PROANTIC
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Baccarat Japonisme Circa 1880



1 660 EUR

Signature : Cristallerie de Baccarat période japonisante

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

Rare cabaret refreshment service complete with a circular tray with raised rim, a carafe with attached handle and its cylindrical glasses in muslin crystal. The set features a homogeneous amber coloring, tinted in the mass, with exceptional transparency and finesse.Japanese decoration of great virtuosity, centered on a medallion featuring the moon and a stylized tree with a trunk treated au naturel . This technique simulates the changing reflections of bronze or Japanese lacquer. The ornamentation is distinguished above all by the use of jewel enamels: generous drops of translucent and opaque enamel set in high relief, imitating cabochons of fine stones (turquoise, opal, coral). Fine asymmetrical branches in agate-burnished gold complete the set, creating a precious contrast

Dealer

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between the delicacy of the amber muslin crystal and the tactile richness of the decoration.Technique:Use of translucent and opaque enamels applied in great thickness. These fused glass drops (turquoise, pink and milky white) create a tactile relief imitating inlays of hard stones and pearls.Lustre and Metallic Irisations:The main medallion, featuring a stylized tree, benefits from a metallic salt treatment. This hot-gloss process gives the decoration changing metallic reflections, characteristic of the ceremonial pieces presented at the World's Fairs.Brown gold gilding:The asymmetrical branch motifs and border fillets are executed in pure gold, worked with agate to obtain a metallic lustre contrasting with the matte finish of certain enamels.Support:Mousseline crystal (very finely blown). Producing such a decoration on such a fragile support is a major technical feat, as the crystal must not deform during the successive firings of the enamels and gilding.Condition:Museum quality. Perfect integrity of enamel reliefs and gilding. No apparent cracks or chips.Marking:Not signed (in keeping with Baccarat production of this period, identified by paper labels). Attribution is formal by technique, crystal shade and stylistic repertoire.Historical note:This service is a direct witness to the "Demonstration of the Exclusion of the Bohemian Manufactures", a period during which Baccarat surpassed its European competitors by the finesse of its mousseline crystal and the richness of its jewel enamels, asserting the superiority of French taste and technique.