18th-century Sicilian Painted Trumeau



28 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 1,12 mt

Height : 2,43 mt

Depth : 55 cm

Description

The love for antique art objects is not mere fanaticism or illusory romanticism--perhaps a little of that, too--but rather a matter of knowing and understanding the roots of our sensibility, the history of our evolution, when time did not chase after itself and creativity was the fruit of patience, attention to detail, and a desire to surround oneself with refined objects that displayed mastery and superb craftsmanship.The visual message conveyed by this piece of furniture, crafted in Palermo between 1740 and 1760, makes an extremely refined impression. The front panels open, revealing the grid pattern among the small, evenly spaced flowers, and display an illusory dream featuring fantastical landscapes, vegetation among flower pots, ruins, and figures. It is a surreal dream in which the

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piece of furniture is no longer merely an elegant container but a magical object that encapsulates scenes of serene life amidst the tranquility of the countryside. Even the side panels and drawers offer the same fantasy when opened, revealing the beauty of multicolored flowers. In those days, to build it, a skilled cabinetmaker had to patiently cut seasoned fir logs, shaping them, fitting, and interlocking the parts without a single nail. Once the work was complete, a blacksmith crafted both the locks and the keys, and finally, the master painter depicted the landscapes and small floral scenes. Often, renowned painters also decorated rich landscape scenes on certain pieces of furniture and on panels, known as "sovraporta," which adorned the lintels. In an era when the humble and numerous rural families owned rustic, massive, sturdy, and very spartan furniture, and the middle-class families owned walnut furniture--repetitive but more refined--the very few economically wealthy families could afford an elegant residence, a horse-drawn carriage, precious furniture, and paintings on the walls.Earthquakes, wars, fires, floods, neglect, indifference, and vandalism have wiped out much of the memory of the love and elegance of our great-great-grandparents' culture. This splendid surviving trumeau, superbly preserved, stands as a rare testament to the unmistakable history of imagination and elegance of the land of Sicily.