Pair Of 18th Century French Consulat Chairs



2 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 54 cm

Height : 60 cm

Depth : 60 cm

Description

Painted and carved woodFrance, circa 1795Consulate periodHeight 60 cm, width 54 cm, depth 60 cm. Seat height 40 cm2,800 EURA pair of French armchairs from the Consulate period, carved in wood and polychromed in cream tones with greenish-black finishes. Each piece features an elegant gondola-shaped backrest that curves back and ends in a perfectly carved scroll, a distinctive feature of late neoclassical furniture. The armrests naturally extend the line of the backrest with a continuous, clean line, resting on turned and circled uprights. The seat, wide and slightly curved at the front, rests on turned front legs and slightly sloping back legs. Both armchairs have been carefully restored: the structure has been reinforced and the polychromy stabilized without erasing the traces of original

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ageing.Made around 1795 in France, these armchairs are part of the political and cultural era of the Consulate, characterized by a deliberate return to classical sobriety after the excesses and instability of the Revolution. During this period, the bourgeois elite and the new high-ranking civil servants sought furniture that reflected order, rationality and disciplined taste, in line with the state's aspirations for renewal. In this context, pieces like these adorned salons, offices or private rooms, where the quality of the carving, the solidity of the construction and the sober ornamentation conferred prestige without ostentation. Their original polychromy, with an elegant and deliberately austere finish, underlines their place among furniture destined for cultivated and refined interiors.The Consulate style, of which these pieces are paradigmatic examples, is defined by the architectural purity of its lines, direct inspiration from classical antiquity and ornamentation chosen with extreme moderation. These armchairs reflect the transition between the graceful lightness of the Directoire period and the sense of monumentality that would characterize the Napoleonic Empire: the legs evoke ancient columns, the blocks decorated with small rosettes are inspired by the Roman repertoire, and the profile of the backrest perfectly embodies this balance between rigor and elegance. The use of polychromy, far from being a mere finishing touch, serves to highlight the architecture of the furniture, defining its volumes and assemblies with the precision characteristic of consular aesthetics.