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Chinese Cloisonné Vases With Lids, Qing Dynasty (1890-1900)

350 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Height : 21,50cm

Description

This elegant pair of vases bears witness to the refined tradition of Chinese silversmithing. The vases are made using the classic cloisonné technique, in which fine copper wires form an intricate geometric network on a deep black background. This motif, also known as the "thunder motif" (leiwen), creates a rich contrast with the bright floral decorations. The central decoration is a sumptuous composition of peonies and lotus flowers in various shades of pink, white and yellow. In Chinese symbolism, these flowers represent wealth, honor and spiritual purity. The details of the leaves, executed in different shades of green and turquoise, underline the high quality finish of this pair.Cloisonné is an age-old technique of decorating metal objects with glass-like colored enamel. Although the

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technique originated in the Byzantine Empire, its craftsmanship reached an unparalleled level of perfection in China during the Ming and Qing dynasties. The production of a cloisonné object, such as these lidded vases, is an extremely laborious, multi-stage process. The work begins with a copper base on which fine metal wires outline the design. The compartments thus formed are repeatedly filled with colored glass paste, then fired at high temperature to form a solid layer. After firing, the surface is polished to a smooth finish, and the visible metal wires are often gilded for a luxurious, glossy finish.