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Antique 18k Gold Chest Cross With Natural Rubies And Diamonds. Spain, C. 1900-1920



4 350 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gold

Description

Important antique pendant cross made in 18 K gold, decorated with spectacular natural rubies of intense red colour and natural diamonds mounted in a composition of great visual richness and strong ornamental presence. This is a piece especially attractive because of the extraordinary chromatic contrast between the brilliance of the diamonds, the vividness of the rubies and the warm tone of the gold, creating a jewel of great personality that immediately conveys a sensation of luxury, solemnity and high antique devotional jewellery. Due to its technical characteristics, the type of setting, the cut of the stones and the overall aesthetic of the ensemble, the cross can probably be dated between the late 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century, within the Belle Époque taste and aristocratic religious

Dealer

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jewellery of around 1900-1920.

The cross presents a very elaborate and elegant design, with open arms finished by delicate curved elements and pierced details that provide visual lightness without losing solidity or presence. The ensemble possesses a refined aesthetic highly characteristic of quality antique religious jewellery, with an air between late Baroque, Romantic and Belle Époque styles that gives it an extraordinarily attractive and timeless appearance.

At the centre stands an important larger oval ruby, surrounded by a halo of old cut natural diamonds that visually multiplies its luminosity and transforms it into the true focal point of the piece. Around it are distributed five other oval rubies, placed on the arms and on the lower section of the cross, forming a perfectly balanced and highly harmonious composition. The rubies present internal inclusions and slight natural irregularities characteristic of authentic antique gemstones, providing depth, personality and a natural beauty impossible to reproduce in modern synthetic stones.

The diamonds appear distributed in small groups around the rubies and at different points of the cross, providing constant flashes of light without excessively overloading the design. The combination between the chromatic intensity of the rubies and the softer and more elegant brilliance of the antique diamonds creates a particularly refined and sophisticated visual effect, far superior to that of many antique crosses of this type, which usually present simpler or less balanced compositions.

Within Christian tradition, rubies also possess a

strong religious symbolism, historically associated with the blood of Christ, sacrifice and redemption. This relationship transforms the piece not only into a jewel of great material and ornamental value, but also into a deeply devotional object charged with spiritual meaning and ceremonial presence.

The cross possesses a slightly elevated profile that allows perfect appreciation of the volume of the stones and the quality of the mounting work. The settings present a solid and homogeneous execution, clearly handcrafted, keeping all the stones perfectly secured, without movement or visible losses. The upper loop, also decorated with diamonds and elaborate open scrolls, integrates perfectly into the ensemble and preserves a robust and secure structure for use.

The reverse presents a clean and elegant structure, with the open backs of the settings visible, something common in quality antique jewellery and which also allows a better appreciation of the transparency and natural luminosity of the stones. No visible hallmarks are observed, although the piece has been acid tested and guaranteed as 18 K gold.

The state of preservation is excellent. The cross retains all its original stones complete and firmly secured, without losses, deformations or important damage. The gold maintains a magnificent overall presence and the ensemble conveys a sensation of solidity, nobility and quality very unusual in antique devotional pieces that have survived to the present day.

Visually this is a cross of enormous personality and presence, one of those antique jewels that immediately stand out and rarely go unnoticed.

Its size, weight, chromatic richness and ornamental balance give it a truly special image, very close to the great European aristocratic religious jewellery of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In addition to its evident collectible and material interest, it remains perfectly usable as a devotional jewel or a piece of great personal elegance. It may be worn as a pendant cross, preserved within a specialised collection of antique jewellery or given as a deeply symbolic jewel associated with an important moment in life. The combination of gold, natural rubies and antique diamonds transforms this piece into a solid, noble jewel with exceptional presence, difficult to find today in such an attractive state of preservation.

Measurements: 5.1 x 3.8 cm (2 x 1.5 in). Weight: 14.3 g. (0.50 oz.)