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Antique Chest Cross In Silver With Carved Christ And Emeralds. Spain, 19th Century

1 700 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Important large-format pectoral cross made in white silver, with gilt silver applications, centered by an ivory carving of Christ. Spanish piece, possibly made around the mid-19th century, although it could be somewhat earlier, conceived as a devotional jewel of clear Baroque inspiration, both in its ornamental conception and in the richness of its decoration. The Christ figure is carved in ivory and set upon a cross also made from this material. The figure displays soft modeling, well-defined volumes, and a serene and deeply devotional expression. The elongated proportions of the body and the simplified treatment of the anatomy can be appreciated, typical of devotional productions where clarity of the image takes precedence over excessive detail. The ivory shows a warm tone with slight natural

Dealer

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variations and a patina consistent with its age, reinforcing its authenticity and character.

Surrounding the central cross is a richly worked silver structure, combining areas in plain silver with gilt sections that provide contrast and depth. The design clearly follows a Baroque language, with a dynamic arrangement of scrolls, leaves, and vegetal relief elements that create movement and a highly expressive play of light. This surrounding framework visually enlarges the piece, giving it a more sculptural character and clearly emphasizing the central Christ figure.

Among the ornamental elements are four natural emeralds in pear cut, evenly distributed along the arms of the cross. The stones display visible internal inclusions, a detail that clearly points to their natural origin and also adds a highly attractive organic beauty. Their intense green color creates a particularly striking visual contrast against the warm tones of the ivory and the reflections of the gilt silver. The combination of silver, gilding, ivory, and emeralds creates an especially rich and refined result, highly unusual in this type of devotional cross.

The reverse is made in white silver, with a solid construction that demonstrates expert craftsmanship. The piece has a raised profile with strong volume, reinforcing its presence as a true pectoral cross rather than a simple lightweight pendant. Its size and ornamental development make it stand out clearly among many ordinary devotional crosses of the 19th century.

The condition is very good, with wear consistent with age but without noticeable damage. The ivory carving remains intact, and the metal elements preserve their definition and stability.

The emeralds are also in good condition and continue to provide strong visual impact to the piece.

This is a cross of strong religious character and remarkable size, in which the Baroque language is interpreted through a 19th-century production, combining aesthetic tradition, noble materials, and careful execution. A piece with great presence, depth, and clear devotional as well as collector's interest.

Measurements: Total height, excluding the suspension loop: 8.7 cm (3.43 in). Maximum width: 6.8 cm (2.68 in). Weight: 29.3 g. (1.03 oz.)