Large Antique Silver Filigree Rosary With Gilt Christ. Spain, Circa 1900



650 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Beautiful large antique rosary entirely crafted in delicate silver filigree, probably made in Spain in the early 20th century, circa 1900. This is a particularly attractive piece both for its unusual dimensions and for the extraordinary ornamental richness of its handcrafted work. The rosary retains a magnificent visual presence, standing out for the lightness and complexity of its filigree craftsmanship, executed with great precision and decorative balance.

The beads are formed by small openwork filigree spheres individually crafted and linked together with silver chain links, alternating with decorative floral-shaped elements. This succession of components creates a highly elegant ensemble

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full of visual rhythm, with an airy and refined appearance that constantly changes as light reflects upon the silver. The craftsmanship is especially striking in the beads, where the extremely fine silver wires form curved and open motifs of great delicacy.

The central connector displays a much more elaborate and sculptural design, also executed in silver filigree. The piece takes the form of a Marian motif with the initials "MA", alluding to the Virgin Mary. Its scrolls and curved structures create an almost architectural effect, adding personality and visual richness to the ensemble. It is one of the most attractive parts of the rosary and clearly demonstrates the skill of the artisan who created it.

The cross maintains the same ornamental aesthetic and is completely covered with silver filigree work. Upon it appears a figure of Christ in gilt silver, creating a particularly beautiful and elegant chromatic contrast. The gilding adds depth and immediately draws the eye toward the crucified figure, reinforcing the devotional and decorative character of the piece. The reverse of the cross also shows a very carefully finished surface, entirely worked and without neglected areas.

The rosary is in very good condition. The filigree retains good structural integrity and preserves all its visual richness, something especially important in pieces of such delicacy. In addition to its artisanal quality, it stands out for its large size, clearly greater than that of a conventional rosary, as can be appreciated in the comparative photographs. This characteristic gives it exceptional presence both displayed in a collection and used as a devotional object.

Filigree is one of the most delicate and sophisticated techniques of traditional metalwork. It consists of working extremely fine threads of precious metal, usually silver or gold, into openwork patterns of great ornamental complexity. This technique was widely used in jewelry and religious objects throughout Mediterranean countries and especially in Spain, Portugal and various regions of Hispanic America.

Filigree rosaries enjoyed great popularity between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of these pieces were handcrafted in small specialized workshops and required extremely meticulous work. Beyond their religious function, these rosaries were considered true devotional jewels and were often given as gifts on important occasions such as weddings, communions or family celebrations.

Larger models, such as the present example, possess special appeal because of their spectacular visual presence and the added complexity involved in producing large beads and crosses while maintaining the characteristic structural lightness of filigree. Pieces incorporating chromatic contrasts through gilt applications, such as the gilt silver Christ on this rosary, are particularly appreciated by collectors of sacred art and antique silverwork.

Due to its elegance, meticulous craftsmanship and magnificent visual presence, this antique filigree rosary is a piece of strong appeal for collectors of religious silverwork and devotional antiques. The combination of filigree silver and gilt Christ also gives it an especially refined and luminous appearance.

Weight: 47 gr.. (1.66 oz.)