



Neo-renaissance Decorative Fireplace Screen Made Of Carved And Gilded Wood, 1830-1840



3 600 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gilded wood

Width : 80 cm

Height : 124 cm

Description

Beautiful mantelpiece for a ceremonial fireplace in the Neo-Renaissance style, made of molded, carved, and gilded wood, featuring rich ornamentation on its crossbars and uprights with motifs of cut-out leather cartouches, foliage, scrollwork, and rosettes, small flowers, and floral garlands. The pediment of its upper crossbar is stamped within a domed mirror with a monogram featuring the intertwined initials "H.C." flanked by cherubs; its uprights are adorned with putti in the form of caryatids. Its base consists of flevrettes seated on glides. It features, within a rectangular frame, a textile panel with a floral design on a red background. A Parisian piece from the first half of the 19th century, Louis-Philippe period, circa 1840. A sumptuous model possessing a majestic

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presence, this ceremonial fireplace screen, made of richly carved and gilded wood, features on the pediment of its high, hat-shaped crossbar, within a cut-out leather cartouche punctuated by acanthus fleurons, flanked by radiant figures of cherubs with spread wings, depicted seated, each holding--in a most graceful gesture--a drapery embellished with a flower whose petals are in full bloom; a convex mirror stamped with the intertwined initials of its "elitist" patron: "H.C." Embellished on its shoulders with voluptuous leaves and acanthus scrolls whose coils are accented with seeds in chain, it is adorned on its side panels--with their undulating profiles--with ornamental motifs interweaving flattering leafy fronds and coquettish blooms--rosebuds or spring flowers. Within these, forming graceful caryatids, curl--sheathed to the waist--smiling toddlers with curly heads and chubby forms rendered in half-round relief. Featuring on its lower crossbar with a scalloped profile, a large leather cartouche centered with a beautiful cabochon, it is theatrically festooned with an opulent floral garland whose stems are encircled within the hollows of scrolls, and with leafy acanthus scrollwork. This sumptuous openwork border harmoniously incorporates the decorative motifs required for this fireplace screen, which, from an ornamental standpoint, proves to be a true success. Set on either side of a connecting block punctuated by a pendant key in the shape of a spinning top, elegant hounds--animals symbolizing loyalty and the fidelity emblematic of the high-born aristocracy--are depicted with their hindquarters highly raised, their necks stretched out, their muzzles bold, and their legs extended on rectangular, molded footplates with rounded ends--form the curvilinear base of this elegant piece of furniture, endowed with a "lordly" character. Stretched over a frame, a textile covering (from a later period) in cotton damask with a floral motif of flowers, fleurons, and acanthus leaves on a red background conforms to

its rectangular frame with curved upper corners and simple molding. The fabric frame follows the line; stretched over a frame, it is adorned with a floral damask pattern on a red background from a later period. Characterized by its fine craftsmanship, this sumptuous fireplace screen is distinguished by its ornate richness, which interprets--not without a certain refinement--the motifs specific to the stylistic vocabulary of the Renaissance period--such as, in this case, carved leather cartouches centered with domed mirrors flanked by cherubs, acanthus foliage inhabited by putti, garlands arranged as festoons, and animal figures with symbolic significance constitutes a precious testament to the fertile inventiveness of Parisian artistic joinery and cabinetmaking from the 1830s to the 1850s. Indeed, it is a prime example of this "artistic furniture" of the "historicist" school, designed to meet the demands for prestige and comfort of the upper middle class of the time, which was then aspiring--through its affinity for the Renaissance style--a sense of nobility and respectability. A piece of similar design dating from the 1840s is cataloged and reproduced in Christopher Payne's book, *European Furniture of the 19th Century*, Antique Collectors Club, 1981, p. 152

Materials: Carved and gilded wood (linden);
Upholstery: damask fabric with floral decoration on a red background from a later period
Dimensions: H.: 124 cm; W.: 80 cm
French work, likely Parisian, in the Neo-Renaissance style from the first half of the 19th century. Louis-Philippe period (1830-1848). Circa 1840. In good overall condition. Minor wear to the gilding on the base. Note: damage to one of the "Levrette" legs located on the back of the base.