



Lombardy, 17th Century, Casket



6 800 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wood marquetry

Width : 64

Height : 29

Depth : 36

Description

Lombardy, 17th century Casket Carved walnut wood, 29 x 64 x 36 cm This refined carved walnut casket is an extraordinary example of 17th-century Lombard craftsmanship, a period when the workshops of northern Italy reached new heights of technical and formal excellence in woodworking. Rectangular in shape and generously sized, the piece features a flat, projecting lid, entirely decorated with panels carved with geometric and floral motifs arranged within concentric frames, bordered by a rich ovolo and fusarola border that runs along the entire perimeter. The sides of the main body are adorned with a continuous band of intertwined foliage carvings, featuring naturalistic motifs executed with great finesse, while at the corners stand full-round figures of cherubs or caryatids,

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skillfully carved and integrated into the architectural structure of the chest. The base rests on an ovulus molding that lends the piece a sense of monumental solidity, balancing the decorative richness with a rigorous architectural rhythm of classical origin. The walnut wood, darkened by time to a deep, warm brown hue, reveals the full quality of the carving when viewed in raking light, showcasing the extraordinary skill of the artisans who crafted it. The production of carved wooden caskets and boxes flourished in Lombardy during the 17th century, a flourishing period of exceptional quality, becoming part of a craft tradition rooted in the High Renaissance and consolidated through the work of specialized workshops active in Milan and Bergamo. These artifacts, intended for aristocratic patrons and the wealthy merchant class, served both practical purposes--the storage of documents, jewelry, and precious objects--and a specific representational function, attesting to the owner's refined taste and financial means. The decorative style employed in this piece, with its repertoire of ovoli, fusarole, classical foliage, and angular human figures--directly references the tradition of Lombard woodcarving of Mannerist origin, reinterpreted in the 17th century with more pronounced plasticity and a more dramatic sense of chiaroscuro, in keeping with the cultural climate of the Baroque. Lombard workshops distinguished themselves by their ability to combine the formal legacy of sixteenth-century classicism with the demands of the new aesthetic, producing objects of extraordinary material quality that were destined to circulate even beyond regional borders.