



18th-century Paduan Workshop, Ribalta

4 800 EUR



Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wood marquetry

Width : 105

Height : 104

Depth : 58

Description

18th-century Paduan workshop Chest of drawers Walnut and burl wood, 104 x 1105 x 58 cm The piece presented here is a three-drawer drop-front chest in the Venetian style, crafted during the 18th century by a workshop in the Padua area. The front, characterized by a sinuous pattern that is repeated on the top drawer, the three drawers below, and the contoured base, is entirely veneered in walnut and walnut burl, arranged in a book-fold pattern and framed by geometric panels that highlight the wood's grain. The drop-down top, decorated in the center with a lozenge motif created using inlay of various woods, opens to reveal the interior writing desk, while the band below is adorned with a delicate Greek fret pattern, executed in inlay using contrasting light and dark woods. The handles

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and lock escutcheons, made of gilded bronze shaped like leaves, complete the ornamental scheme, along with the corbelled feet that slightly raise the piece off the floor, lightening its overall mass. Paduan-made drop-front desks represent a significant chapter in 18th-century Venetian cabinetmaking, a period in which the writing desk assumed an increasingly important role in the domestic furnishings of the bourgeoisie and the aristocracy of the mainland. Padua, while part of Venice's cultural orbit yet possessing its own tradition of craftsmanship, developed a recognizable decorative style based on the skillful use of local walnut and its burl, worked into thin slabs and arranged in geometric patterns with a striking chromatic effect. The undulating form, with sides and front that follow curvilinear lines, reflects the Baroque and later Rococo tastes prevalent throughout the Veneto region, while the presence of Greek fret motifs attests to a dialogue with the classicist repertoires then in vogue in the decorative arts. Designed for correspondence and household administration, these pieces combined functionality with social prestige, becoming symbols of status in the patrician and bourgeois residences of the era, often placed in passageways or rooms used for receiving guests.