



Rare Convertible Occasional Table Stamped By Jean-pierre Latz



28 500 EUR

Signature : Jean Pierre LATZ

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Wood marquetry

Height : 66

Depth : 37

Description

A rare Louis XV period convertible table, stamped by Jean-Pierre Latz, featuring kingwood veneer set against a satinwood ground and framed by amaranth stringing. Its top, contoured on all sides, features a marquetry design centered on a ribbon-tied lyre, surrounded by scrolling foliage. The quality of the design, the precision of the marquetry cutting and framing, and the elegant contrasts achieved through the use of kingwood, satinwood, boxwood, and amaranth all attest to craftsmanship of the highest order. The lyre is a relatively uncommon motif for small pieces of furniture. Here, it evokes the era's appreciation for the arts as well as the table's intended function: it was designed for reading, writing, and music. The satinwood apron, contoured on all four sides, is defined by a

Dealer

Galerie Gilles Linossier

Mobilier et objets d'art du XVIIIème

Tel : +33 1 53 29 00 18

11, Quai Voltaire

Paris 75007

gracefully curved amaranth border. It is supported by four strongly cabriole legs made of amaranth with chamfered satinwood edges, joined by a stretcher shelf. The legs terminate in finely chased and openwork gilt-bronze sabots that wrap around the feet. The piece is also notable for its ingenious, discreetly integrated convertible mechanism. A sliding shelf beneath the tabletop reveals a leather-lined, adjustable reading/writing slope. A side drawer contains a sliding compartment designed to hold an inkwell, an essential accessory for the daily use of this type of furniture. The precision of the joinery and the quality of the concealed mechanisms found in these pieces, designed with secret compartments or convertible functions, exemplify the meticulous craftsmanship and ingenuity characteristic of the finest cabinetmakers. This table is a superb example of the high-quality work produced by Jean-Pierre Latz in the mid-18th century. It displays the hallmarks of his finest creations: a graceful structure with perfectly balanced lines, exquisitely executed marquetry using precious veneers, and a mechanism designed to remain virtually invisible, never compromising the purity of the design. Furniture bearing Latz's stamp remains relatively rare. Many pieces were commissioned by a prominent aristocratic clientele, and several works comparable in both design and function are now held in the collections of the Louvre Museum, the Palace of Versailles, the Wallace Collection in London, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Convertible tables of this caliber, combining exceptionally fine marquetry, a complete and original transformation mechanism, and the stamp of Jean-Pierre Latz, are rare. They perfectly illustrate the evolution of Parisian furniture toward more specialized pieces designed for intimate use, while maintaining the superior level of craftsmanship reserved for the most prestigious commissions. Furthermore, this piece is documented in two well-known books.*Le

mobilier français : Le meuble d'ébénisterie*, by
Guillaume Janneau, Éditions de l'Amateur, 1993,
page 75, entry and photograph no. 79and*Le
mobilier français du XVIIIe siècle*, by Giacomo
Wannenes, Bocca Editori, Milan, 1998, page 111,
where it is noted that in 1984 it was valued at
373,000 francs. Jean-Pierre Latz. Originally from
Cologne and admitted as a master craftsman
before 1738, Latz holds a pivotal place in the
history of French cabinetmaking. His work is
distinguished by remarkable inventiveness,
evident in both the richness of the veneers and the
complexity of his mechanical
furniture. Provenance: Drouot, Paris, March 1,
1984; estimated at 373,000 francs. Private
collection, Switzerland. Sotheby's, London,
*Silver and Genoese Furniture from a Swiss
Private Collection*, May 27, 2009, lot 12 (sold
for £31,250). Robbig Collection. Dimensions:
Height 66 x Width 55 cm x Depth 37 cm