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Danish Rococo Mirror In Gilded Wood, Circa 1750



4 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gilded wood

Width : 60 cm

Height : 125 cm

Description

Carved and gilded wood Denmark, circa 1750 Height 125 cm, width 60 cm This wall mirror is crafted from carved and gilded wood and features a vertical format, with a contoured frame and a richly ornamented crown. The frame features a sinuous interior molding, enhanced by a finely beaded border that surrounds the mirror panel, which is largely original and retains its characteristic patinated silver plating, attesting to its age. The carved decoration is particularly concentrated on the crest and corners, where an exuberant arrangement of rocaille volutes, acanthus leaves, asymmetrical shells, and naturalistic foliage is rendered in deep relief. These motifs extend along the sides of the frame in the form of delicate floral appliqués before culminating in a dynamic central composition.

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The carving retains its original gilding, enhanced by a natural patina that lends it depth and subtle variations in tone, while the reverse side preserves its original nail-set structure as well as its period fastenings. This mirror is an excellent example of mid-18th-century Danish Rococo craftsmanship, a period during which the French style developed under the reign of Louis XV was reinterpreted by Scandinavian workshops with remarkable technical refinement and a distinctive regional character. The asymmetrical rocaille ornamentation, the predominance of plant motifs, and the continuous flow of the carvings all reflect the ornamental vocabulary of the Rococo style, conceived as a lighter, more elegant, and more naturalistic alternative to the severity of the Baroque. In domestic interiors, mirrors played a fundamental role in amplifying natural light and enhancing the perception of space, while simultaneously serving as important symbols of social status and refinement. The preservation of both the original mirror panel and the original gilded surface significantly enhances the piece's historical importance, preserving materials and finishes that have very rarely remained intact. During the 18th century, Denmark developed a remarkable tradition of furniture and decorative arts production, closely linked to contemporary French stylistic trends while adapting to the refined tastes of the Copenhagen court and the Scandinavian aristocracy. Gilded mirrors played a prominent role in this tradition, adorning reception rooms, antechambers, and state apartments, where they combined practical utility with considerable decorative prestige. This example embodies the most admired qualities of Nordic Rococo sculpture: a harmonious composition, vigorous and deeply carved sculpture, and the preservation of its gilding and original mirror plate--features that make it a particularly representative example of the exceptional achievements of Danish decorative arts in the mid-18th century.