



Portuguese Toiletries Set Of Museum-quality With An Original Miniature Portrait



17 250 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Description

Portugal, circa 1790-1810 Dimensions: 210 × 98 × 60 cm This exceptional Portuguese dressing table, with its monumental proportions and extraordinary craftsmanship, dates from around 1790-1810. Commissioned for a prominent member of the Portuguese aristocracy, this remarkable piece is unique in its design and execution, representing the pinnacle of Portuguese cabinetmaking at the turn of the 19th century. Its architectural form is enhanced by one of the most elaborate marquetry designs found in Portuguese furniture of the period. The spectacular decoration consists of a geometric pattern of extraordinary complexity, inspired by the rich ornamental vocabulary inherited from Islamic and Moorish art. Each geometric motif is meticulously outlined with a fine line of

Dealer

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boxwood, creating a striking interplay of light, shadow, and contrast that attests to the cabinetmaker's exceptional talent. Further enhancing its luxurious appearance, the moldings, edges, and exposed corners retain their original gold leaf gilding, adding refinement and highlighting the piece's elegant architectural silhouette. The central mirror retains its original miniature painted on copper, an exceptionally rare artifact. Designed as an integral part of the piece, the miniature depicts an elegant Portuguese noblewoman adorned with magnificent pearl necklaces and impressive emerald jewelry--undeniable symbols of wealth, prestige, and aristocratic rank. The preservation of this original miniature greatly enhances the piece's historical value and uniqueness. The carved legs are topped with finely carved human heads, an unusual and highly distinctive detail reminiscent of the famous Indo-Portuguese furniture produced in Goa, where European forms blended with Indian sculptural traditions. This piece was never intended as mass-produced furniture, but rather as a unique, custom-made piece commissioned by a member of Portuguese high society. Its monumental scale, remarkable originality, exceptional marquetry, original miniature portrait, refined gilding, and rare Indo-Portuguese sculptural details place it among the finest examples of Portuguese aristocratic furniture of its era. The piece has undergone a few discreet historical restorations, perfectly in keeping with its age and carried out with great attention to detail. These interventions in no way alter its authenticity, beauty, or historical significance. A true collector's item and an exceptional example of Portuguese decorative arts, it would be equally at home in a major private collection, a historic interior, or a museum setting.