



PROANTIC
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Important Jewelry Box In Chiseled And Silver-plated Bronze - Napoleon III Period, Circa 1860-1880



2 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 18,5 cm

Width : 12,5 cm

Height : 11,5 cm

Description

Important chiseled and silver-plated bronze jewelry box - Napoleon III period, circa 1860-1880A rare and remarkable Second Empire-era jewelry box made entirely of chiseled bronze, displaying exceptional craftsmanship. Crafted entirely of bronze, this box captivates with its substantial weight, the precision of its casting, and the richness of its chisel work. The silver-plated bronze panels contrast elegantly with the gilded bronze and feature a remarkable decoration of sculpted bas-reliefs. An iconographic analysis reveals an allegorical representation of the Four Seasons: Spring, depicted as a young woman surrounded by flowers; Summer, evoked by harvests; Autumn, symbolized by grape clusters and fruit; while a more austere scene appears to illustrate

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Winter. This theme was particularly popular during the Second Empire. The finesse of the modeling is remarkable, even in the backgrounds. The reliefs display true sculptural quality, far superior to the industrial productions of the time. Several characteristics attest to its first-rate craftsmanship: particularly heavy bronze; highly precise casting; very fine chiseling down to the smallest details; decoration entirely sculpted rather than stamped; a refined alternation of gilded and silvered bronze; high-quality hinges; excellent condition. The piece as a whole points to the work of a major Parisian art bronze workshop. Research suggests the work of major houses such as Barbedienne, Susse Frères, Denière, Tahan, or Alphonse Giroux, though no definitive attribution can be made in the absence of a clearly identifiable mark. A foundry mark is present on the base. Its interpretation remains uncertain but is more likely to correspond to that of a modeler or foundryman than to that of the bronze artist or publisher. With its high-quality craftsmanship, rich decoration, and remarkable state of preservation, this box set is a beautiful example of French decorative arts from the Second Empire, intended for a particularly discerning clientele.