



19th Century Austrian Folk Art Painted Wooden Marriage Box

1 110 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood



Description

A charming and highly decorative 19th-century Austrian folk art marriage box, crafted in softwood, probably spruce, and entirely hand-painted with a beautifully preserved traditional polychrome decoration. Of oval form, the box features a rich blue-green ground around the sides, embellished with generous garlands of stylized flowers and foliage in cream, yellow, red, orange and green tones. The lid is particularly appealing, depicting a young couple seated together beneath a large tree in an idyllic rural landscape, accompanied by a grazing animal and scattered trees. The scene is framed by a finely hand-painted inscription in old German script expressing wishes of love, friendship, harmony and happiness. Loosely translated, its sentiment reads: "May love and friendship guide your path,

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and may the harmony of your hearts bring you blessed joys." This tender inscription, together with the depiction of the couple, strongly suggests that the box was originally created as a marriage or betrothal box, or perhaps presented as a personal token of affection. The simple construction, visible grain of the softwood, painted hinges and wonderfully spontaneous decoration are characteristic of Central European folk craftsmanship. The interior has been left largely undecorated, revealing the warm natural color and grain of the wood. The painted surfaces retain a particularly attractive age-related patina, with rubbing, small losses, marks and wear consistent with the box's age and use. Rather than detracting from the piece, these traces of time contribute greatly to its authentic folk-art character. A wonderfully evocative example of 19th-century Austrian folk art, combining traditional craftsmanship, naïve painting and a touching romantic sentiment. Dimensions: Height: 19.5 cm / 7.68 in Width: 47 cm / 18.50 in Depth: 29.5 cm / 11.61 in