



19th Century Austrian Folk Art Polychrome Painted Spruce Marriage Chest

1 700 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état



Description

Description : A charming 19th-century Austrian folk art marriage chest, crafted in spruce wood and richly decorated with hand-painted polychrome ornament. The chest features a distinctive domed lid and a particularly appealing palette dominated by deep blue, creamy white, red-orange and dark scrolling foliage. The painted decoration is wonderfully expressive and covers almost every visible surface. The front is adorned with stylized flowers and foliage surrounding a prominent bird, while the domed lid presents a particularly symbolic composition with a pair of birds, two joined hearts, floral motifs and a draped decorative element. These romantic motifs belong to the traditional decorative vocabulary of Austrian marriage and dowry chests, where hearts, paired birds and flowers symbolized love,

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union and prosperity. The side panels continue the hand-painted floral decoration, giving the chest a remarkably complete and decorative appearance. A simple metal lock plate remains on the front, while a small metal carrying handle is fitted to the lid. The interior retains an especially interesting period decorative paper lining with stylized floral, geometric and heraldic-inspired motifs. The underside of the lid remains unlined, revealing the traditional construction and natural grain of the spruce boards. The chest displays extensive wear, rubbing, losses and variations to the painted surface, consistent with its age and history of use. This beautifully time-worn surface contributes greatly to the authentic character and decorative appeal of this distinctive piece of Austrian folk art. Dimensions: H 32 cm (12.6 in) W 52 cm (20.5 in) D 34 cm (13.4 in)