



Venice, 18th Century, Decorated Tray

2 400 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 36,5

Height : 65



Description

Venice, 18th century
Decorated tray
Carved, lacquered, and decorated wood, 65 x 36.5 cm
The object features a sturdy structure with a wavy, undulating edge, typical of 18th-century Venetian craftsmanship, reflecting the Rococo taste for dynamic and asymmetrical forms. The painted decoration covers the entire surface of the tray, organized into a central composition of great visual impact, set within a frame featuring alternating geometric and floral motifs in shades of green, ochre yellow, and carmine red. In the center, against a landscape background rendered with a skillful range of golden browns and dark greens, figurative scenes of great narrative vitality unfold. The edges of the tray feature smaller scenes, also of a figurative and landscape nature, set within oval or lobed medallions, completing a

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Ars Antiqua srl

Antiquaire généraliste

Tel : +39 02 29529057

Via C. Pisacane, 55 - 57

Milano 20129

decorative program of great richness and complexity. The condition of the piece attests to its authenticity and age: the lacquer shows widespread flaking and wear, and the paint layer exhibits craquelure and abrasions, yet the work as a whole retains its extraordinary chromatic and narrative quality intact. Objects of this kind occupy a prominent place in the history of 18th-century Venetian decorative arts. Venice was then one of Europe's leading centers for the production of lacquered furniture and objects, partly due to the influence of Eastern lacquer that reached the lagoon through trade with the East, and partly due to the flourishing of artisan workshops specializing in the so-called "arte povera"--a technique involving the application of cut-out prints directly onto the wooden surface, subsequently covered with layers of transparent lacquer. This technique, which was more economical than direct painting, made it possible to achieve refined decorative effects, replicating the figurative repertoire of great painting and engraving on furniture and everyday objects. On the back of the tray is a paper label from the Milanese gallery Alberto and Michele Subert, a valuable testament to its provenance from the Lombard antiques market and a useful clue for reconstructing the work's collection history.