



17th-century Spanish Bargueño Cabinet With Secret Drawers And Marquetry

7 550 EUR



Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Wood marquetry

Description

An exceptional 17th-century Spanish bargueño (or writing cabinet), notable for its richly decorated interior, numerous drawers, and hidden compartments. The exterior, with its elegant simplicity, opens via a wide flap to reveal an interior with a complex layout, consisting of multiple drawers of various sizes, including secret drawers and hiding places. The interior is richly adorned with meticulous geometric marquetry combining contrasting wood species, such as citronwood and sandalwood. At the center is an architectural panel depicting a classical door or façade, surrounded by geometric inlays and finely executed scroll motifs. The remarkable density and precision of the decoration lend the interior a great richness, contrasting with the austerity of the exterior. The piece retains impressive

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handcrafted wrought-iron fittings, including openwork lock plates, corner braces, and a prominent central locking mechanism. The bargueño currently rests on a striking sculptural base depicting a reclining bear, crafted from green-patinated bronze. This bear-shaped base is a later addition dating from the 20th century; it creates an original juxtaposition between a prestigious antique piece and a modern sculptural design. A piece of great character and high decorative value, combining the craftsmanship of a 17th-century cabinetmaker with a bold sculptural presentation. Ideal as a centerpiece, a collector's piece, or a desk.

Origin: Spain
Period: 17th century
Base (bear): 20th century
Materials: Wood, citron and sandalwood marquetry, wrought iron; patinated bronze base
Features: Folding top serving as a writing surface, multiple drawers, secret drawers, and hidden compartments
Overall dimensions: 130 × 100 × 50 cm
Condition: Good condition for its age, consistent with its age and use; shows the usual signs of wear, slight losses, surface marks, and evidence of past restoration. The bronze base depicting a bear is a later addition.