



Empire Armchair, Denmark, Circa 1800-1810



3 400 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Width : 57 cm

Height : 87 cm

Depth : 65 cm

Description

Empire Armchair Mahogany with wicker seat. Maple marquetry; wood treated with a "warm sand" patina and paint Denmark, circa 1800-1810 Height 87 cm, width 57 cm, depth 65 cm. Seat height 40 cm Armchair crafted from solid and veneered mahogany, enhanced with maple marquetry and other light woods stained using the "warm sand" technique, featuring an original woven wicker seat. The frame features a slightly sloped backrest, elegantly curved armrests, and square-section front legs that extend naturally from the armrests, while the rear legs follow the rising line of the backrest, creating a continuous silhouette characteristic of early 19th-century Danish furniture. The craftsmanship demonstrates extraordinary precision in cabinetmaking, with hidden joints and refined

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veneer work. The decoration is one of this piece's main attractions. The upper crossbar of the backrest is adorned with a composition of plant arabesques, volutes, and small flowers rendered in marquetry, executed with delicate shading in warm sandy tones that lend volume and depth. In the center is a bearded male head, likely an idealized representation of Neptune (Poseidon), the classical deity associated with the sea. Below is a base formed by two dolphins facing each other and intertwined--a common motif in the neoclassical ornamental repertoire inspired by Greco-Roman antiquity, where these animals symbolize protection, travel, and prosperity. The sides of the seat feature panels decorated with arabesques and palmette leaves, while the front joints of the armrests incorporate delicate floral rosettes. This piece, originally used as an office chair, belongs to the Danish Empire style, which developed between the late 18th century and the early decades of the 19th century under the strong influence of French Neoclassicism, though reinterpreted by Copenhagen workshops with their own distinctive sensibility. In contrast to the monumental dimensions of the Parisian model, Danish cabinetmakers developed a lighter and more refined aesthetic, characterized by elegant proportions, the showcasing of precious woods, and marquetry of extraordinary delicacy. The use of imported mahogany, combined with inlays of maple and other carefully selected light woods, is one of the hallmarks of the finest Danish furniture of this period. The quality of the craftsmanship, the symbolic richness of its iconography, and its excellent state of preservation make this armchair a magnificent example of high-end Danish furniture produced in the early 19th century.