



Miniature Chest Of Drawers, Known As A "maîtresse" Chest, Made Of Wood Veneer And Marquetry,



1 650 EUR

Signature : Anonyme

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wood marquetry

Width : 30 cm

Height : 40.5 cm

Depth : 24 cm

Description

This exquisite miniature master's chest, crafted from veneered wood and featuring geometric marquetry, is a masterpiece of late 18th-century micro-cabinetmaking. This exquisite piece in the Transition style--a pivotal period between the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI--bears witness to the virtuosity of Parisian artisans. Featuring two drawers with no visible divider on the front, it offers a visual composition of perfect harmony. Its marquetry decoration is structured around meticulously selected veneers, arranged in butterfly wings and highlighted by delicate contrasting wood fillets. The sides of the chest of drawers follow the Rocaille tradition, while the lines of the front are already becoming more refined under the influence of emerging Neoclassicism. A set of chiseled and gilded

Dealer

ABN Antiquités Brocante de Normandie

General antique dealer

Tel : 0638955430

Mobile : 0638955430

57 rue Victor Hugo

Rouen 76000

bronze fittings of great finesse accentuates the piece's architectural design. The drawers are adorned with movable pull handles decorated with foliage scrolls and decorative lock plates in the form of drapery or ribbon bows. The front posts, meanwhile, are embellished with superb gilded bronze finials depicting busts of caryatids or classical female figures--a motif dear to the ornamentalists of that era. The arched base, a hallmark of 1770s refinement, elegantly terminates in small gilded bronze feet. The chest of drawers is crowned by its original breccia marble top, which closely follows the contours of the frame and displays a rich palette of beige, brown, and white hues. This type of miniature piece, often referred to as a "master's chest," served as a display model or masterpiece to demonstrate the craftsman's talent before he attained master status within the prestigious Guild of Cabinetmakers. Although this miniature piece bears no maker's mark, its structure and the iconographic quality of its bronze fittings immediately bring to mind the creations of the King's greatest designers and cabinetmakers. One thinks in particular of Jean-François Oeben, Louis XV's mechanical cabinetmaker, a pioneer of the Transition style, and famous for introducing geometric decorations of mathematical precision. The treatment of the caryatids and the precision of the construction also evoke the work of Pierre Roussel, who was admitted as a master in 1745 and was renowned for his exquisitely delicate marquetry and his technically superb furniture. Finally, the balance of proportions and the finesse of the bronze ornamentation echo the work of Jean-Henri Riesener, who succeeded Oeben and became the principal supplier to the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne in the late 18th century. This collector's piece stands out for its excellent state of preservation. It features a superb original patina that highlights the depth of the wood species used. The raw-wood drawer fronts and dovetail joints attest to the meticulous craftsmanship of the period. This miniature chest

of drawers will naturally find its place in the collection of a connoisseur of rare curiosities, display pieces, or period furniture. New: Get a sneak peek at my new arrivals! To make sure you don't miss any new items and discover my latest finds before anyone else, download the "abn antiquites" mobile app now, available on the Apple Store. By activating the app, you'll enjoy exclusive early access to all my new arrivals of antiques and collectibles, well before they're posted on this site. ??? Download "abn antiquites" from the Apple Store You can follow me on Instagram by clicking this link:

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