



Devotional Plaque - Engraved Slate - Cross On A Stepped Base - French Folk Art, Late 19th Plaqu



340 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Other

Length : 40 cm

Width : 23 cm

Description

Devotional plaque--Cross on a stepped pedestal--Rough slate engraved with a fine point--Original wrought-iron nail and chain for mounting - French rural folk art, late 19th century or early 20th centuryA true regional curiosity and a work of domestic sacred art, typical of quarry regions such as the Pyrenees, the Massif Central, or Brittany, this slate devotional plaque is a prime example of religious fervor and folk craftsmanship in rural France during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.In the center of this plaque, with its rough and irregular edges, the sculptor has carved in bas-relief an imposing Latin cross standing on a stepped platform. This structure stands out from the background thanks to remarkable chiseling work with a fine point: the edges of the cross and the steps are entirely

Dealer

Famille Fresnaye

Généraliste - Troisième génération

Mobile : 0614240672

Léguévin 31490

hatched in a sawtooth pattern. This type of repeated, meticulously precise pattern--which is very difficult to execute, as slate is prone to splitting--can be symbolically interpreted as a light, a radiant halo emanating from the cross, demarcating the sacred from the profane. Visually, these serrated patterns create a powerful contrast between the stone's natural surface and the smoothness of the recessed carvings. The cross is depicted without the body of Christ; stripped of it, it is symbolically the instrument of salvation, a sign of Christ's victory over death, here subtly erected / depicted on a mineral material, which is by nature unshakable. It rises from an imposing three-tiered pedestal composed of six blocks in total. The joints between the carved stone blocks on this pedestal are clearly incised, evoking solid and stable masonry that withstands the test of time. The stepped structure here is not merely a decorative choice: it represents Mount Golgotha, where the crucifixion took place. Depicted in popular iconography as a stepped pyramid, climbing these steps symbolizes the spiritual elevation of the soul--the path of penance. Anchoring this cross in this stone base was a deliberate choice by the sculptor to express the permanence of his faith and his belief in the unshakable strength of the Church. In the upper section, two antique wrought-iron nails with square heads passing through the plaque are attached to a chain with oval links. This original suspension system recalls the piece's primary function: hung on a pediment, a beam, a wall, or in a niche, this plaque was intended to protect and inspire piety in those who passed by it every day. In perfect condition, with a pleasant antique patina and natural flaking of the slate along the edges; the original hanging mechanism is fully functional. Free shipping to mainland France. Please contact me by email if possible. I am available to provide further information.