PROANTIC
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French Empire Mahogany Folding Screen With Painted Panels, Circa 1810



9 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Mahogany

Length : 2,36m

Height : 157m

Description

French Empire-style mahogany folding screen with painted panels, circa 1810Height 1.57 m, total width 2.36 m. Width of one panel: 0.58 m.Folding screen composed of four panels connected by brass hinges, with a mahogany frame and panels decorated with neoclassical-inspired paintings. Each panel features, against a light-colored background, a musical instrument suspended by colored ribbons and floral garlands. The decoration is arranged symmetrically and framed by stylized architectural elements: an upper canopy composed of green and gold fringes adorned with pink fringes, and a lower border composed of blue and yellow geometric motifs. The mahogany frames feature small metal appliqués at the corners, while the reverse side consists of smooth,

Dealer

Ladrón de Guevara
Fine Arts
Tel : +34 694275594
Mobile : +49 1727905946

Rivera de Curtidores, 29. Loc. 30
Madrid 28005

light-colored panels.The decorative motif is dedicated to music and features four instruments inspired by antiquity: a lyre, a pan flute, a set of wind instruments, and a circular horn. These motifs belong to the repertoire of musical trophies, which was widely used in neoclassical decorative arts. The lyre, traditionally associated with Apollo and the Muses, evokes poetry, harmony, and the arts, while the wind instruments allude to musical celebrations and pastoral scenes from antiquity. The ribbons, rosettes, and garlands accompanying each instrument reinforce the ornamental character of the ensemble, inspired by Greco-Roman wall decorations.Made in France around 1810, this folding screen is a representative example of the decorative taste that developed during the Napoleonic Empire, a period when the revival of ancient motifs took on fundamental importance in furniture and interior design. The influence of the wall paintings discovered at Pompeii and Herculaneum fostered the spread of light, airy compositions organized around suspended motifs, friezes, and classical elements set against light-colored backgrounds. The combination of mahogany wood, metal hardware, and painted panels reflects this aesthetic sensibility, in which the simplicity of the structure contrasts with the rich color palette of the decoration. Its four-panel format made it possible to divide spaces and create more intimate atmospheres, while incorporating an ornamental element with a striking presence.