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Exquisite Miniature Nativity Scene In Ivory, Attributed To The Tipa Family (trapani, Ca. 1750)



12 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Ivory

Description

Precious Miniature Nativity Scene in Ivory Attributed to the Tipa Family (Trapani, ca. 1750)Accompanied by CITES documentation IT/CE/2023/MI/00177Date: circa 1750Materials: Carved and sculpted ivory, ebonized wood baseDimensions: Base 33 x 22 cm; Nativity scene height approx. 10 cmDescription of the workAn extraordinary miniature nativity scene crafted from the finest carved ivory, a superb example of the high level of craftsmanship from the Tipa family's workshop in Trapani around the mid-18th century. The piece is set on an elegant ebonized wooden base that frames a scene of astonishing complexity and formal precision. At the center stands the Nativity stable, meticulously crafted down to the smallest architectural details of the roof and walls, housing the sacred figures

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of the Holy Family along with the ox and the donkey.Surrounding the stable is a lively and bustling procession of finely carved figures: adoring shepherds, travelers, musicians, and figures leading intricately detailed animals, including a camel laden with household goods, a saddled donkey, and various herds. Completing this evocative scene are leafy trees with extremely fine, openwork branches, a testament to the carver's incredible technical virtuosity. Every single detail conveys the extraordinary "softness and refinement" that made these masters famous throughout Europe, blending the formal purity of neoclassical taste with the expressive theatricality of Sicilian Baroque.Historical NotesThe Tipa family was a renowned family of sculptors and carvers from Trapani, famous for producing delicate and precious works in coral, alabaster, amber, shell, and ivory. The workshop, founded by the family patriarch Giuseppe, was brought to the highest levels by his sons Andrea (1725-1766) -- acclaimed throughout Europe for his miniature and monumental sculptures -- and Alberto (1732-1783), who specialized in creating complex sculptural groups. The Tipa brothers established themselves as the foremost masters of 18th-century Sicilian ivory art.