# Omnia Vanitas - Painted Glass For A Magic Lantern With A Turned Frame, Italy, 17th Century




3 500 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : En l'etat

## Description

Omnia Vanitas - Hand-painted glass for a magic lantern with a turned wooden frame, Italy, 17th centuryDescription:Hand-painted glass disc for a magic lantern, depicting a complex allegory of Vanitas and Memento Mori, enclosed in a circular frame made of turned wood and stained black.At the center of the composition stands a skull encircled by a laurel wreath and resting on a bound volume, symbolizing the transience of earthly glory and human knowledge. At the top, a winged hourglass (Tempus Fugit) flanks the Latin inscription "OMNIA VANITAS," deliberately painted in mirror image (ZATINAV / AINMO) so that it is legible when projected through the lantern's lens. Surrounding the central subject are further emblems of transience: a vase with cut flowers and a second book on the left, a grotesque

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mask and a mirror on the right, as well as a spout and bone fragments at the base.In the 17th century, in the wake of optical studies and publications on the magic lantern (including the work of Athanasius Kircher), these slides combined the wonder of light projections with the moral and meditative function typical of Baroque culture. An artifact of great interest to collectors of antique optics, pre-cinema artifacts, and Baroque iconography.Period: 17th centuryProvenance: ItalyMaterial and technique: Hand-painted glass, turned wooden frameDimensions: Glass diameter 7.5 cm; total diameter with frame 13.5 cmCondition: Good overall state of preservation, with slight marginal chips along the edge of the glass and normal wear on the paint consistent with the period and use.Magic lantern, Vanitas, Memento Mori, 17th century, Italy, antique optics, pre-cinema