

Boulle Style Chest Of Drawers, Napoleon III



25 000 EUR

Period: 19th century

Condition : Parfait état, rénové selon les procédures du musée

Material: Wood marquetry

Width: 55 cm Height: 155 cm Depth: 75 cm

Description

We are privileged to present this stunning cabinet, a remarkable example of the refinement and opulence that characterized the Boulle style as revived in the 19th century. Inspired by the legendary work of André-Charles Boulle (1642-1732), cabinetmaker to the Sun King, this piece combines sumptuous materials and exquisite detailing to create a piece of rare magnificence, emblematic of the quest for grandeur and historicism typical of the Second Empire. Exquisite Design Features and Material Richness:

This cabinet is masterfully crafted from ebonized wood, providing a sleek and dramatic black backdrop that enhances the richness of the marquetry. Its front panel is adorned with elaborate red tortoiseshell and brass inlay,

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forming intricate scrollwork, luxuriant volutes, and refined floral patterns. The striking contrast between the deep, vibrant red of the tortoiseshell and the polished brilliance of the brass creates unparalleled visual depth and elegance, typical of Boulle's première partie technique. The cabinet is sumptuously framed by finely cast gilded bronze mounts. These elements, which include stylized classical figures, opulent floral motifs, and elegant scrollwork, are executed with remarkable precision. They highlight the exceptional craftsmanship of the period's bronziers and enhance the cabinet's regal aesthetic. The top is finished with a polished black surface, perfect for displaying decorative objects or curiosities. Functional Elegance and Authenticity: Behind the central door, the cabinet reveals a spacious interior, ideal for storing fine objects or documents. Its design blends intrinsic beauty with practical functionality, making this piece of furniture as useful as it is beautiful. The presence of its original lock and key further adds to its authenticity and appeal for collectors. The 19th-Century Boulle Revival: The fascination with the Boulle style experienced a spectacular revival in the 19th century, particularly under the Second Empire (1852-1870) of Napoleon III. This period was characterized by artistic eclecticism and an ardent desire to resurrect past glories. 19th-century cabinetmakers brilliantly reinterpreted and often surpassed the techniques of their predecessors, incorporating technical advancements while retaining the spirit of opulence and virtuosity that had made André-Charles Boulle famous under Louis XIV. This cabinet is a perfect example of this historical reappropriation, combining the visual richness of the 17th century with the technical perfection of the 19th.Key Selling Points & Unrivaled Acquisition Potential: Exquisite Boulle Marquetry: The intricate marquetry of red tortoiseshell and brass, directly inspired by André-Charles Boulle, makes this a masterpiece of its kind. High-Quality Gilded Bronze: The extensive use of high-quality gilded bronze mounts adds a touch of luxury and sophistication, reflecting the opulent tastes of the era. Exceptional Craftsmanship: The meticulous attention to detail and the superior quality of the materials testify to an exceptionally high level of artisanal skill, guaranteeing the cabinet's value and prestige.Structural Elegance: The ebonized wood construction provides a dramatic and elegant backdrop for the marquetry and gilt bronze. Authenticity and Functionality: The presence of the original lock and key ensures its authenticity and full functionality. Major Collector's Piece: As a fine example of 19th-century French cabinetmaking and the Boulle style revival, this cabinet is a valuable addition and a sound investment for any prestigious collection.