

Lot 566



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Auction Works of Art & Art Nouveau

Date 16.05.2024, ca. 14:50

Preview 10.05.2024 - 10:00:00 bis
13.05.2024 - 18:00:00

TABLE WITH UNUSUAL INLAYS.

France.

Date: Table top 18th c., the frame around 1800.

Technique: Boulle technique with fine brass inlays.

Description: The table with four flat, sweeping C-shaped legs set in an octagonal nodus. A baluster-shaped shaft above, supporting the wide, rectangular table top. The table top features extremely fine and complex tortoiseshell and brass inlays with engraved details. In the center, three console-like pedestals with three dancing cupids and, flanking them, two horsemen with feather decorations, each under exotic canopy architecture. Along the edges a wide band with grotesques, mythical creatures and mascarons, between them festoons with cupids.

Measurement: 73,5x100x63cm.

Some of the brass inlays loose and lost.

Literature:

Kjellberg, Pierre *Le Mobilier Français Du XVIII Siècle*, Paris 1989. On the Boulle family of ebonists, beginning with André Charles Boulle, see p.106 onwards, and on the technique p.108.

The present table top was decorated with so-called Boulle marquetry, which was named after André-Charles Boulle, the court ebonist to King Louis XIV. In the production of Boulle marquetry, the materials tortoiseshell, brass and/or pewter are laid on top of each other and fixed. In a further step, the decorations are then carefully sawn out with a thin fretsaw, so that in the end the same pattern in different materials is available to the cabinetmaker two to three times. The inlay work on this table, in which metal is inlaid in tortoiseshell, is known as *première partie marqueterie*. It was more expensive and more precious than the so-called *contre-partie marquetry*, in which the reverse principle prevailed and the tortoiseshell was inlaid into the brass or pewter. The motifs on this table are so numerous and imaginative that a new detail catches the eye almost every time you look at it.

Estimate: 3.000 € - 4.000 €

