



EARLY 19TH CENTURY GOLD AND ENAMEL SNUFFBOX FOR ORIENTAL-MARKET

Era: 1st part of the 19th century.

Materials: gold, enamel.

Dim: W 3.1 in / D 2.2 in / H 0.6 in.

Weight: 3.2 oz(90 g).

Gold mark: owl.

Swiss craftsmanship.

Exceptional snuffbox in multicolored gold and enamel. The cover, the interior bottom, and the base are decorated with painted enamel floral motifs. These floral compositions are set on a translucent, vermillion red enamel background that allows the geometric patterns in the gold underneath to be seen. The borders of the snuffbox are embellished with intricately sculpted scrolling foliage in pink and green gold on a matte gold background. On the base, the four enamel panels are framed in scrolling foliage.

Numerous Swiss enamel artisans worked for the Turkish market, beginning in the 17th century. But it's at the beginning of the 19th century that numerous snuffboxes and watch casings were created. Their characteristic decorations were flowers or fruits, trophies, or representations of the Bosphorus strait in Istanbul. Swiss craftsmanship intended for sale on the oriental-market.