



**Pietra dura and gilt bronze box.
Mid-19th century.**

Large, exceptional rectangular box with angled corners in pietra dura and black marble. The gilt bronze mounting is ornamented with garlands of flowers and rinceaux. The box is composed of sixteen rectangular panels in pietra dura, featuring flowers on a black marble background. The flowers represented are: forget-me-nots, pansies, daisies, lily of the valley, morning glory, fuchsia, and roses.

The box's hinged lid features a large panel with angled corners and is embellished with a rose, lily of the valley, and forget-me-nots on a black marble background.

The pietra dura technique developed in Florence under the influence of the powerful dukes of Tuscany during the 16th century. It is accomplished by cutting semi-precious stones such as agate and jasper, inlaying them into black marble, and then polishing the completed ensemble. This technique has endured much in the same way as mosaic work has. Aristocrats during their touristic excursions through Europe would not have missed the occasion to bring back souvenirs such as this exceptional box from Italy.

The interior is entirely lined with royal blue fabric.

L: 11.6 in (29.5 cm)
W: 7.9 in (20 cm)
H: 6.3 in (16 cm)

Early 19th century craftsmanship. Circa 1830-1840.

Price: 15700€

REF: 7523