OUAISS ANTIQUITÉS
Galerie des Arts



Gold necklace with micomosaic, early 19th century

Era: early 19th century, Empire.

Matériaux: gold, micromosaic.

Dim. open: L 15.74 in (40 cm).

Weight: 0.85 oz (24,30 gr).

Hallmark: owl, 18 ct.

A gold necklace and micromosaic. The necklace is composed of seven micromosaic medallions set in dark blue glass. Two gold strands support the micromosaics between them. The subjects of the micromosaic plates are uncommon, as they do not represent ruins but rather birds and chariots with birds and butterflies on them. The chariot motif is inspired by a mosaic discovered in the Vetii house in Pompeii.

Micromosaic jewelry appeared with the development of the “Grand Tour”, a long journey made by the European aristocracy in the 18th century. Many Europeans brought back small plates of glass mosaic

from their peregrinations in Italy, to be reassembled by a goldsmith on their return home. This type of adornment was very fashionable during the First Empire. Napoleon I presented his second wife, Marie-Louise of Austria, with a micromosaic set by the silversmith Nitot, now in the Musée du Louvre.