OUAISS ANTIQUITÉS
Galerie des Arts



18th Century Micromosaic from a model by G.Raffaell

Era: 18th century, circa 1790

Materials: micromosaic

Dim (in): H: 5.7in / L: 4.3in

Dim (cm): H: 14,5 cm / L: 11 cm

Attributed to G. Raffaelli

A quadrangular micromosaic panel featuring, at its centre, a diamond-shaped cartouche edged with a red border, set against a midnight blue background. At the heart of the composition is a parrot perched in profile on a branch adorned with foliage and cherries. The bird, rendered with great naturalism, displays plumage in vivid, contrasting colours, combining the deep green of the wings, the bright red of the head and subtly nuanced touches of yellow and brown. The background of the cartouche, composed of fine, regular white tesserae, highlights the animal's silhouette and emphasises the precision of the design. The intense blue outer background creates a powerful decorative contrast, enhancing the clarity and elegance of the whole.

Based on a design by Giacomo Raffaelli. The quality and shape of the tesserae in this micromosaic

allow it to be dated to the late 18th century. From the late 18th century onwards and throughout the 19th century, the art of micromosaics flourished. These objects quickly became highly sought-after souvenirs among wealthy travellers undertaking their ‘Grand Tour’.

Roman workshop, circa 1790.

Collection of P-Y Le Diberder