OUAISS ANTIQUITÉS
Galerie des Arts



A rock crystal and vermeil clock by Hermann Ratzersdorfer, 19th century

Era: 19th century

Materials: rock crystal, silver, enamel

Dim: H 14 cm / W 8,4 cm / D 5 cm

Master goldsmith: HR for Hermann Ratzersdorfer

Hallmark: Diana head

An exceptional clock embodying the elegance and refinement of the Renaissance style through meticulous workmanship in rock crystal. Its distinctive vermeil frame is enhanced by polychrome enamels framing finely carved rock crystal panels. The dial, decorated with Roman numerals, features a scene of two figures draped in antique style, while a door at the back reveals the movement. Master goldsmith hallmark Hermann Ratzersdorfer.

Hallmark: five lobed punch with the head of Diana in profile, a crescent moon touching her forehead and the city mark under her nose and the fineness mark at the nape of her neck. The fineness is ‘3’ for 800/1000.

Chips on the enamelled dial, small crack on the upper part of the rock crystal.

Hermann Ratzersdorfer (worked 1845-1894)The Ratzersdorfer firm was founded in 1845 and continued until the end of the 19th century. He was an important designer and won numerous medals at several World Fairs (London 1852, Paris 1855, Vienna 1873). His creations are particularly inspired by the 16th and 17th centuries. These objects, combining rock crystal, silver or vermeil mounts and colored enamel, were intended to imitate objects found in Renaissance curiosity cabinets (such as that of Rudolf II in Prague), which demonstrated the wealth and taste of their owners.