



Bonbonnière with Roman Micromosaic

Circa: Circa 1800

2.5 cm

0.984251968503937

Circa 1800

2.5 x 0 cm (1 x 0 inches)

Attributed to the workshop of Giacomo Raffaelli

Yellow gold, round, flat form made of dark solid tortoiseshell with a marbled tortoiseshell lining.

A gold-framed polychrome micromosaic (6.5 cm in diameter) with love symbolism is mounted on the lid.

Depicted on a strip of terrain is a biga of Cupid with a quiver of arrows and a burning torch, as well as a pair of billowing doves, framed by a millefiori border.

This very high-quality micromosaic is a typical example of the early work of the Vatican workshops. The sophisticated depiction is inlaid with very fine tesserae in horizontal lines. Giacomo Raffaelli (Rome 1753–1836) was one of the finest hardstone and mosaic artists of his time. In 1787 he was appointed Councillor of Liberal Arts by Stanislaus II Augustus, King of Poland. In 1804 he became director of the Milan mosaic workshop and returned to Rome after being appointed advisor to the Russian Tsar.

Literature:

Compare to the depiction in Grieco, *Micromosaici Romani*, Rome 2008, p. 128, no. 329, here a paperweight with this love motif.