

19TH CENTURY FRENCH GILT BRONZE SINGING BIRD AUTOMATON ON CARVED GILTWOOD BASE

$11,000

SKU: 253-312
Stock: N/A
Categories: Vases, Jardinières, Planters & Centerpieces

This exceptional antique singing bird automaton clock, crafted in France circa 1880, is a finely executed example of French luxury mechanical artistry. The finely worked gilt bronze birdcage is elegantly proportioned with delicately twisted vertical bars, a hinged front door, and a domed top surmounted by a ring finial. It is mounted on a sculptural giltwood base, octagonal in form, richly carved with floral garlands and beaded moldings, and retaining a warm, luminous patina developed through age and careful preservation. Within the cage, a vividly colored songbird with hand-painted plumage perches on a naturalistic branch adorned with polychrome berries and foliage, offering remarkable realism and charm. When activated by the original side winding key, the bird animates, turning its head, opening its beak, and producing song, a captivating interplay of movement, sound, and craftsmanship characteristic of the Belle Époque. (See video). The underside reveals the original construction and access panels, further confirming the authenticity and quality of this refined antique object, which functions equally well as a mantelpiece centerpiece, cabinet curiosity, or distinguished conversation piece. Dimensions: 11.75" diameter x 20.5" high.

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