





# GABRIELLE LAROCHE GALLERY

Medieval - Renaissance - 17th century

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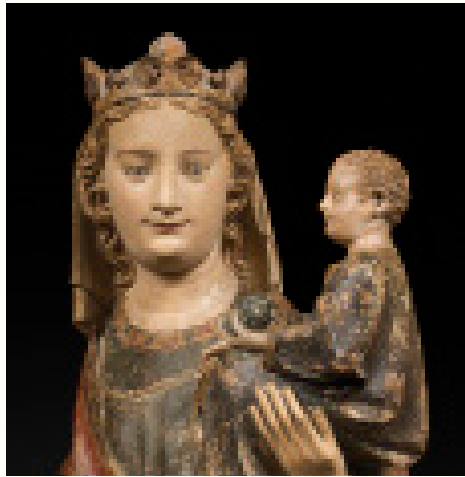
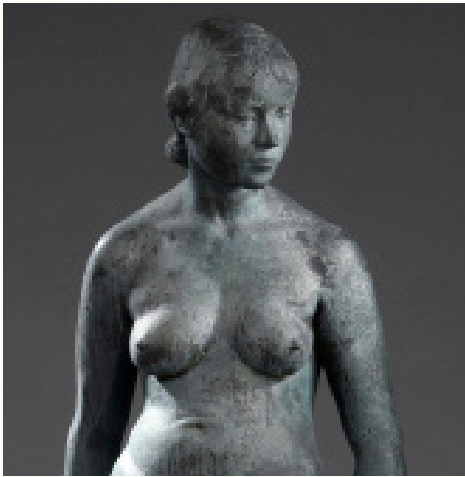
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***FIRST HALF 16TH CENTURY RENAISSANCE CABINET  
WITH A SCROLL AND CANDELABRA DECOR***

FRANCE, NORMANDY

FRANCOIS I REIGN, ca. 1530-1540

Height : 159 cm

Length : 114 cm

Depth : 46 cm

Oakwood

Very good condition

Provenance : Gordes castle

This high-quality cabinet from the late Middle-Ages presents a cutaway silhouette and invents new decorative motifs applied to a structure that remains Gothic. It opens with three door-leaves and stands on a base whose back is adorned with panels enriched with discs and half-discs.

The panels are framed by balusters foreshadowing the Renaissance style. The arched openings of the base are also noteworthy for their early 16th century architectural spirit.











This cabinet is then clearly to be located at the crossroad of two periods. The lock mechanism, now hidden inside the furniture, leaves room for decor. This richly adorned cabinet is not doubt a piece destined to impress. Composed of one body the upper part opens with three door-leaves and is enriched by moulded panels and grotesque and scroll carvings.

Its peculiarity resides in its upper body divided in two parts with one door on the lower part and two for the upper one. This formula has been also used for a cabinet kept by the Musée Dobrée in Nantes (France) as well as on the Joinville cabinet in the Renaissance Museum of Ecouen (France).

The lateral panels are also adorned with vegetal motifs with distinctive figures such as hands holding leaves or a angel head in the lower part.







The transformation of furniture during the Renaissance, at least regarding decor, expresses a societal change. The Italian Wars have allowed exchanges between France and the peninsula. This vogue for Italian taste introduced by king François I is also accompanied by a rediscovery of Antiquity and the growth of Humanism in the royal courts but also in administrations, small aristocracy and urban merchant classes. The latter taking an ever growing place in the intellectual and artistic domain.

Between 1510 and 1530-40 the furniture structures set during the 15th century do not change. However the ornamental vocabulary is renewed with Italian motifs. Several factors have been at work : the direct intervention of Italian artists, the influence of monumental decors and the imitation of engravings.

**This cabinet in good condition shows perfectly the persistence of Gothic structure and the simultaneous growing craze for Italian ornaments.**

## *FIRST FRENCH RENAISSANCE CUPBOARD*

NORTHERN FRANCE

FIRST HALF 16th CENTURY, HENRI II REIGN

Height : 152 cm

Length : 93 cm

Depth : 44 cm

Honey coloured oakwood

Very good condition

Provenance : Chabrières Arlès collection

Under the reign of Henry II, during the French Renaissance, the rigour of composition set boundaries to exuberant decors. This vogue of sharpness and rigour is a characteristic of this period's style. The composition is classic in inspiration, always balanced and sober when compared to the Italian production.

During this period cabinet-makers pose as architects of some sort. Indeed architectural harmony of the facade is at the core of their concerns. The studies of Antic modules is then an absolute necessity. From this care devoted to proportions appear refined furniture displaying pure and clean lines.

This cupboard really embodies its time. Its peculiarity resides in its two levels composition with three door-leaves adorned with finely carved lion heads on cut-out leathers. The cupboard presents a unic central door on the lower level and two doors on the upper one and is topped by a moulded cornice.











This upper level clearly obeys a ternary rhythm with the central door presenting the same motif as the other two door-leaves framed by panels adorned with vegetal carvings. These three elements are flanked by two applied balusters. This first level is ended by a fluted pilaster on each side.

On the lower level panels are carved with Corinthian fluted pilasters in the continuation of the upper level in order to emphasize the harmony and balance of the composition.

The lower part of the cupboard is enriched by three sober moulded panels. The upper part of this cupboard stands on two thin Ionic columns.

**In an astounding condition and beautifully made this cupboard is a very elegant and perfect example of the French cabinet-making during the first half of the 16th century with its perfect architectural structure, the harmony of its proportions, the sobriety of its decor.**





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