A fruitwood, marquetry table-top cabinet, Augsburg, Germany, circa 1600

Sold



REF: 4252

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Height: 41.5 cm (16.3")

Width: 56.5 cm (22.2")

Depth: 30 cm (11.8")

Description

Of rectangular form fitted with nine drawers and a central drawer inlaid, mostly with townscapes, animals and foliage, with a further three small secret drawers behind the removable central niche

Characteristic in the sixteenth century of the South German regions, small, portable table-top cabinets of this type were for personal use and were highly prestigious pieces to own. That this example contains 'secret drawers' not only points to its use for storing important or valuable objects, but also highlights the superb level of craftsmanship required to produce it. To combine such exquisite marquetry decoration with cleverly concealed compartments was the cabinetmaker's 'tour de force' signalling the wealth and intellectual prowess of its owner

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