A rare late 17th century panel of woven silk brocade, possibly English, circa 1680-1700

Sold



REF: 4305

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Height: 176 cm (69.3")

Width: 100.5 cm (39.6")

Description

The emerald coloured silk damask brocaded with gilt lamella wrapped threads in a design of floral and foliate sprays punctuated with red, pink, white and yellow silks depicting carnations, honeysuckle and roses, the panel comprising four joined panels, backed with a moiré silk

This early example of a brocaded silk could possibly be English with reference to two articles of clothing in the V&A, London, attributed to English manufacture. Namely a waistcoat of pink silk brocaded with white and silver gilt-thread, acc. no. 176-1900 and the wedding coat of Thomas Isham, acc. no. 175-1900

According to Eric Kerridge, 'Textile Manufactures in Early Modern England' (1985), the silk weaving industry in England was already well underway in Canterbury, Norwich and Southwark by the early 1620s. Milanese immigrants in London were manufacturing tissues of gold and silver thread by about 1611 whilst the Huguenot silkworkers were starting to arrive from 1620 onwards, pp.126-129. The apparently narrow loom width (approximately 20 inches) of this brocade indicates it is a 'broad silk' of 17th century date , ibid., p.126

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