

BURZIO.

An Italian Florentine Pietra dura top after Antonio Cioci design, the rectangular top inlaid with various rare marbles and hard stones including malachite, amethyst and lapis lazuli on black Belgian marble, with the depiction of a tazza containing a medallion, two Etruscan vases, a small ewer, an antique lamp, and a vase in the shape of a flute with flowers, all on rockwork within a later modern gilt-bronze frame.

Half 19th Century

Height: 18,30 in. (46,5 cm)

Width: 29,33 in. (74,5 cm)

Depth: 0,78 in. (2 cm)

The inspiration for this plaque comes from various eighteenth-century tabletops designed by Antonio Cioci and produced by the Grand Ducale Manufacture (A.M. Giusti, *Hardstone Decoration in Furniture and Decorations*, London, 1992, pp. 102-107). As the eclectic taste of the nineteenth century dictated, the composition represents a mixture of popular motifs used by the court workshops, and demonstrates a revival of neoclassical themes. The table can be compared to other tables and hard stone panels of private Florentine workshops, including a table from the Gilbert collection (A. Massinelli, *The Gilbert Collection: Hardstones*, London, 2000, No. 36). A similar later example with closer still life scene was exhibited on the Ugolini stand at the 1900 exhibition in Paris.

Literature:

Anna Maria Giusti; *L'arte delle pietre dure*, Ed. Le Lettere 2005; p. 243, fig.198.

