

A Rare Italian garniture of three Baluster Vases Attributed to Christian Wehrin, (Turin, b. circa 1731, active between 1756–1774), in terracotta decorated in imitation of Japanese Imari porcelain, the domed lid with a Buddhist lion finial, painted overall with birds and chrysanthemum, peony and prunus blossoms in a red, gold and cobalt blue palette on a brown ground, Turin circa 1765.

Height: 32 5/8 in. (83 cm)

Height for the pair: 23 5/8 in. (60 cm)

Width (max.): 18 in. (46 cm)

Provenance:

Pelham galleries.

Important private European collection .

Literature:

A. Griseri, *Ambienti del Settecento*, De Agostini, 1985, p. 364.

The lacquer decoration on the present vases, imitating the Japanese Imari palette, is similar in execution to the decoration in the Chinese taste on a lacquer tray and a pair of lacquered tôle vases both attributed to Christian Wehrin, and both previously with Pelham Galleries.

All these objects share the same fine craquelure surface and are decorated with flowers and birds treated in a highly individual manner that must be by the same hand. Originally from Vienna, Christian Wehrin worked at the court of the Kings of Savoy, and his masterpiece is the 1765 decoration of the *Sala da Gioco* in the *Appartamento di Levante* (Chinese Apartment) in the royal hunting palace of Stupinigi, outside Turin.

The patterns of the decoration on the present vases, furthermore, are consistent with the prints and drawings contained in the so-called Wehrin Album (fig. B), a collection of graphic material assembled and used by the artist for his decorative repertoire, today held in the Museo Civico d'Arte Antica e Palazzo Madama in Turin (Lucia Caterina, Cristina Mossetti, Villa delle Regina, *Il Riflesso dell'Oriente nel Piemonte del Settecento*, Allemandi, Torino, 2005, plates XXXV, no. 9, p. 92 and no. 14, p. 94.)



B

"Gru" Album Wehrlin". Turin, Museo civico d'arte Antica e Palazzo Madama, inv. 1349/DS.