

A pair of Italian giltwood carved pliants, with a rectangular loose cushion seat in green silk with attached tassels, above 'X'-frame baluster supports, carved with scrolls, joined by shaped stretchers, on inward scrolled feet.

Turin, Circa 1740

Height: 19 3/4 in. (50 cm)

Width: 22 1/2 in. (57cm)



### Literature:

- V. Viale, *Mostra del Barocco Piemontese*, Turin 1963, tabs. 185–186a.
- R. Antonetto, *Minusieri ed ebanisti del Piemonte*, Daniela Piazza editore, 1985, p.223.
- A. Gonzales Palacios, *Casa D'oro, gli stili dei mobili*, Fratelli Febbri editori, Milano 1966, vol. I, p. 112.

### Comparative Examples:

Our *pliants* are modelled after the iconic ones designed by Filippo Juvarra (1678–1736) for the Gabinetto Cinese in the Turin Royal Palace (fig.1). The present examples were more probably after a design by Benedetto Alfieri (1699–1767), the successor to the Sicilian Juvarra as royal architect. Alfieri designed them for another interior of the Turin Royal Palace, the Gabinetto delle Miniature, where some similar stools can still be found (fig.2).

The *pliants* was considered a seat of favour but also of subjugation. It marked the privileged social rank of those who were allowed to sit in front of the king or a prince of the blood. More often, however, they remained unused, being displayed in the official apartments to accentuate the standing position of those who had neither the right nor the honour to sit before the majesty of a powerful person.



1.Torino, Palazzo Reale, Gabinetto Cinese 2.Torino, Palazzo Reale, Gabinetto delle Miniature