

A North Italian Fruitwood On Ebony Microcarving Miniature Attributed to Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo (1745-1820), depicting an Allegory of Arts and Sciences, in a circular gilt brass and ebonised wood frame. The reverse inscribed "Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo nato in Asti a 6 settembre 1745 †1820" in black ink.

Turin, End 18th C, Beginning 19th Century.

Diam.: 1,96 in. (5 cm)

Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo was born in Asti in 1745, as the first son of Giovanna Margherita Burzio, he settled in Turin only from 1773, being elected to the prestigious 'Pia Società e Sodalizio di San Luca', the following year. He was to work for the next 20 years as a sculptor and cabinet-maker whose large workshops supplied the Court of Savoy among other important clients. He was appointed Court wood-carver to Victor Amadeus III, King of Savoy, in 1787, remaining in that position until the French invasion of 1796 and was re-instated in 1815 following the downfall of Napoleon, until his death in 1820. He was justly famed for the breathtaking finesse of his 'microsculture' carved in box and other lightwoods as well as for his more conventional but always beautifully-made furniture. .

Comparative Examples in Literature:

A cura di Claudia Brtolotto e Vittoria Villani, *Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo, Intaglio Minuto e Grande Decorazione*, Lindau 1989, p.71, n.32, for a minor example.