

French 18th-Century Gold and Enamel Star Ring, Circa 1790

£575



Description

A rare and captivating French late 18th-century yellow gold ring, dating to circa 1790, set with an enamel plaque decorated in red and white with a field of painted stars. Its vivid colour, intimate scale, and richly symbolic decoration make it a particularly evocative jewel from the final years of the ancien régime and the Revolutionary period.

The oval plaque is set within a warm yellow-gold mount, its deep red enamel providing a striking ground for the finely painted white stars. This bold contrast of colour and motif gives the ring an immediately recognisable presence, while the delicacy of the painted decoration reflects the skill involved in enamel work of the period. The starry design may have carried associations of hope, constancy, and celestial protection—sentiments especially suited to a jewel worn close to the hand.

Jewellery of this date was often both personal and expressive, conveying affection, memory, or allegiance through colour and emblem. This ring has precisely that private, symbolic quality: a small but arresting object that rewards close attention and offers a tangible connection to late 18th-century French taste.

An unusual and highly decorative survivor, it would be a compelling addition to a collection of Georgian or French jewellery, enamelwork, or sentimental rings. It also has considerable appeal as a distinctive wearable jewel, where its historical character and vivid starry decoration remain as engaging today as when it was made.

UK Ring Size: O