

Regency Toleware Maritime Gallery Tray, Circa 1810

£395



REF: 7503

Height: 4 cm (1.6")

Width: 35 cm (13.8")

Depth: 25 cm (9.8")

Description

A handsome Regency English painted toleware gallery tray, dating to circa 1810, and richly decorated with a finely executed maritime scene. The central panel depicts a sailing vessel at sea, its billowing sails and lively water rendered with a confident hand, creating a strong sense of movement and atmosphere. Such naval and maritime subjects were especially popular in the Regency period, reflecting Britain's seafaring identity and the enduring romance of the open sea.

The scene is framed by an elegant border of gilt grapevines, whose scrolling tendrils and clusters of fruit provide a luxurious contrast to the dark painted ground. This combination of picturesque painted decoration and gilded ornament is characteristic of the finest English toleware of the period, when japanned metalwares offered an appealing and durable alternative to lacquered and painted wooden trays.

The raised gallery edge gives the tray a pleasing architectural form as well as practical function, while the original hand-painted decoration makes it an attractive object for both use and display. It would look particularly striking on a coffee table, sideboard, or bar, where its maritime subject and warm gilt detail can be fully appreciated.

An evocative piece of early 19th-century English decorative art, combining Regency elegance, traditional craftsmanship, and a beautifully observed nautical scene. A wonderful addition to a collection of antique toleware, maritime art, or period painted furniture and accessories.