

18th century gilt gesso looking glass

£395



REF: 6260

Height: 68 cm (26.8")

Width: 52 cm (20.5")

Description

An 18th century Italian gilt gesso framed looking glass with original foxed mirror mercury glass plate, circa 1780.

Mercury glass mirrors emerged in the early 19th century as a cheaper alternative to traditional silver mirrors. Developed in Germany and Bohemia, they featured double-walled glass coated with a mercury-tin amalgam. These mirrors became prized for their distinctive, antique patina, reflecting the period's decorative tastes. And it is this foxing and patina that is so sought after today.