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Rare 17th Century Swedish Tapestry Cushion Panel

£4,450

A rare 17th century Swedish tapestry cushion panel woven in coloured wools with figures of a crowned King and Queen, with a tulip between them and three pendant strawberries, all surrounded by a wreath of flowers and foliage and blue and white tied ribbons, all against a dark brown ground.
Presented within a later , moulded wooden frame

SKU: C4253
Height: 56 cm (22 inches) Framed
Width: 56 cm (22 inches) Framed
Year: Swedish. 17th Century

Provenance;

English private collection. Acquired Phillips, Son and Neal, 25 May 1999, lot 68.

Tapestry weaving in Sweden was a home industry before King Gustav Vasa (1523-1560) introduced Flemish weavers under his patronage to produce tapestry hangings for the royal palace. Many of the apprentices left after the required contractual time to work for noble families in the provinces, in their castles and manor houses, who also wished to commission tapestries for their homes. Although the large wall hangings went out of fashion to an extent over time, being replaced by wall painting and other fabrics. The expertise of tapestry techniques had however spread in the 18th century and upper and middle class women took up the pursuit of tapestry weaving, as land reforms increased the economic wellbeing for the population in areas. These luxury items which revealed status and prosperity, were sometimes designed with the assistance of the professional weaver's and their advice and expertise spread. The items produced pieces became dowry pieces and suitable decoration for homes, such as bed linens, bench covers, carriage cushions and table coverings, and often depicted biblical figures. The art form eventually became associated with folk art traditions and local population manufacture. The Swedish pieces, from Dalarna and Skane, have a distinct style and the technique used was the Flemish dovetail technique and Swedish weavers used the local wool for the wefts and linen for the warps. Denmark, Germany and Norway produced similar items with variation in the designs and styles used.