A 17th century, Silk, Bargello, Wave Pattern Bed Pelmet from Spetchley Park, could be repurposed as a hanging, curtain pelmet or cushions

£4,000

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REF: 11909

Height: 38 cm (15")

Width: 206 cm (81.1")

Description

just purchased more information to follow or on request

worked in yellow pink green and blue silk thread.

The use of silk, patterning and size suggests that this striking Bargello pelmet was almost certainly conceived as for a bed. There is a hanging at Parham House, Sussex very similar to this wave pattern.

Needless to say, surviving bed textiles from this period are exceptionally rare as they had value as hangings and for upholstering domestic objects when removed from the bed.

The Spetchley Park bed pelmet is really beautiful and luxurious. It was made as an elite objects and has not lost its gravitas, character or charm.

Bargello work has a classic timeless quality to it and blends with most decorative schemes whether period or contemporary

Provenance Henry Berkeley by descent. The Spetchley estate was purchased by Rowland Berkeley, a wealthy wool merchant and banker, in 1606, and has been in the family ever since.

Spetchley park

Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn stayed at Spetchley during a 'Summer Progress' of 1535. Sir Robert Berkeley (d 1656), who inherited the estate in 1611, received licence in 1625 to impark at Spetchley. The house was burnt in the aftermath of the Battle of Worcester in 1651. In 1683 the diarist John Evelyn noted that the owner Sir Robert Berkeley was 'most ingenious, virtuous and religious ... and very curious in gardening.' A major phase of alterations began at Spetchley following Robert Berkeley's succession in 1804, with the house being rebuilt from 1811 in the Regency taste and the surrounding landscape reordered. The gardens owe much of their detailed form in the late C20 to the activities of Rose Willmott, who married Robert Berkeley of Spetchley in 1891 and who lived here until her death in 1922. Her younger sister, Ellen Willmott (d 1934), one of the most famous gardeners of her time, also had a considerable input. After Rose's death, responsibility for the garden passed to Capt R G W Berkeley, who added considerably to the plant collections. In the later 1990s Major R J Berkeley added a Millennium Garden within the kitchen garden. For generations the family collected a veritable treasure trove of rare and important pieces on their travels and adventures across Europe, North America and India.

• In the Green Chamber at Parham House the State Bed is hung with Bargello curtains, pelmets and valences, c1620 • A tester bed at the Cha^teau de Carrouges, Carrouges, Basse-Normandie is hung with 18th or 19th century Bargello • There are a number of Bargello, wool work, wall hangings in situ in historic houses in the UK such as the West Room and the Ante Room at Parham, the Fettiplace Closet at Chastleton which were originally the bed hangings at Clandon Park

Bargello work Bargello or flame stitch embroidery was particularly popular for furnishings during the Italian Renaissance, worked in Florence it is also called Florentine work. This type of work is also called Irish stitch (particularly in America) or Point d'Hongire (Hungary). It became fashionable again during the seventeenth

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and eighteenth century and often worked by ladies of the house. A pattern was not required to be drawn on the loose canvas as a c...

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