HOWGEGO
HISTORIC + MODERN

Tester Four Poster Bed Oak Renaissance Style Carved Adam Eve Armorials Tapestry

£40,500

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REF: 11518

Height: 90 cm (35.4")

Width: 183 cm (72")

Depth: 244 cm (96.1")

Description

A vintage king size oak tester or four poster bed in the Renaissance style. Hand carved with Adam & Eve carvings in the headboard, figurative sculptures in the bedposts, three carved armorials on the pelmet rail and an armorial tapestry and velvet bedspread Just purchased more information available shortly and on demand

•\tThis bed was privately commissioned by a collector about 40 years ago representing a rare opportunity to purchase a vintage, hand-crafted bed made to the highest standards in the Renaissance-architectural-style with fine Adam & Eve, figurative and armorial carving. •\tThis bed typifies the expensive and lavishly carved beds that articulated the power and position of the head of the household and were the most expensive pieces of furniture in the home. They were the centrepiece of the Bedroom, the most opulent of a series of rooms designed to showcase the status and wealth of the owner and the height of fashion in palaces, castles and important private homes in the late-16th century. •\tPeriod beds with front pedestals containing open architectural niches to display figurative carvings are exceptionally rare. The infamous Elizabethan Great Bed of Ware in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London has similar niches although it does not retain its figurative carvings. •\tThis bed contains a visual language and narrative that was widely used in Renaissance art. The iconography of Adam & Eve has consistency in prominent masterpieces across genres throughout time. •\tThis bed has been beautifully made, from finely grained oak and the figuring forms part of the aesthetic, with attention to detail throughout, unusually the back is wainscot panelled. It has been handcarved with a considered narrative that is appropriate for its function and the period it is glorifying. The bed has been wisely and ingeniously made in sections so it is easy to handle, assemble and move.

•\tWith the exception of the Great Bed of Ware Renaissance this bed is larger than beds of the period and is a generous 150cm wide (UK king size) •\tIt would not be possible to re-create this handcrafted and handcarved bed for the price that is being asked.

The tester is made in two sections which are held in place and supported by the cornice. Each section contains fifteen moulded panels suggestive of wainscot panelling that was being installed in royal, aristocratic and elite residences . The handcarved dentil moulded cornice attaches to the headboard and front bedposts and is secured with bolts. There are acanthus leaf and scroll handcarved corbels at each end which hide the bolts. The front rail has a large handcarved armorial featuring a lion rampant within a cartouche of acanthus leaves supporting the helmet. Each side also has a handcarved armorial depicting three birds, the blazon and helmet held by scrolling acanthus leaf terms. The top section of the massive bedposts has characteristic, handcarved, bulbous turnings merging into massive, square, architectural pedestals on plinths. The upper pedestal with a vocabulary of Renaissance architectural ornament of fluted classical columns supporting archways on each side revealing handcarved figurative sculptures yet to be id...

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