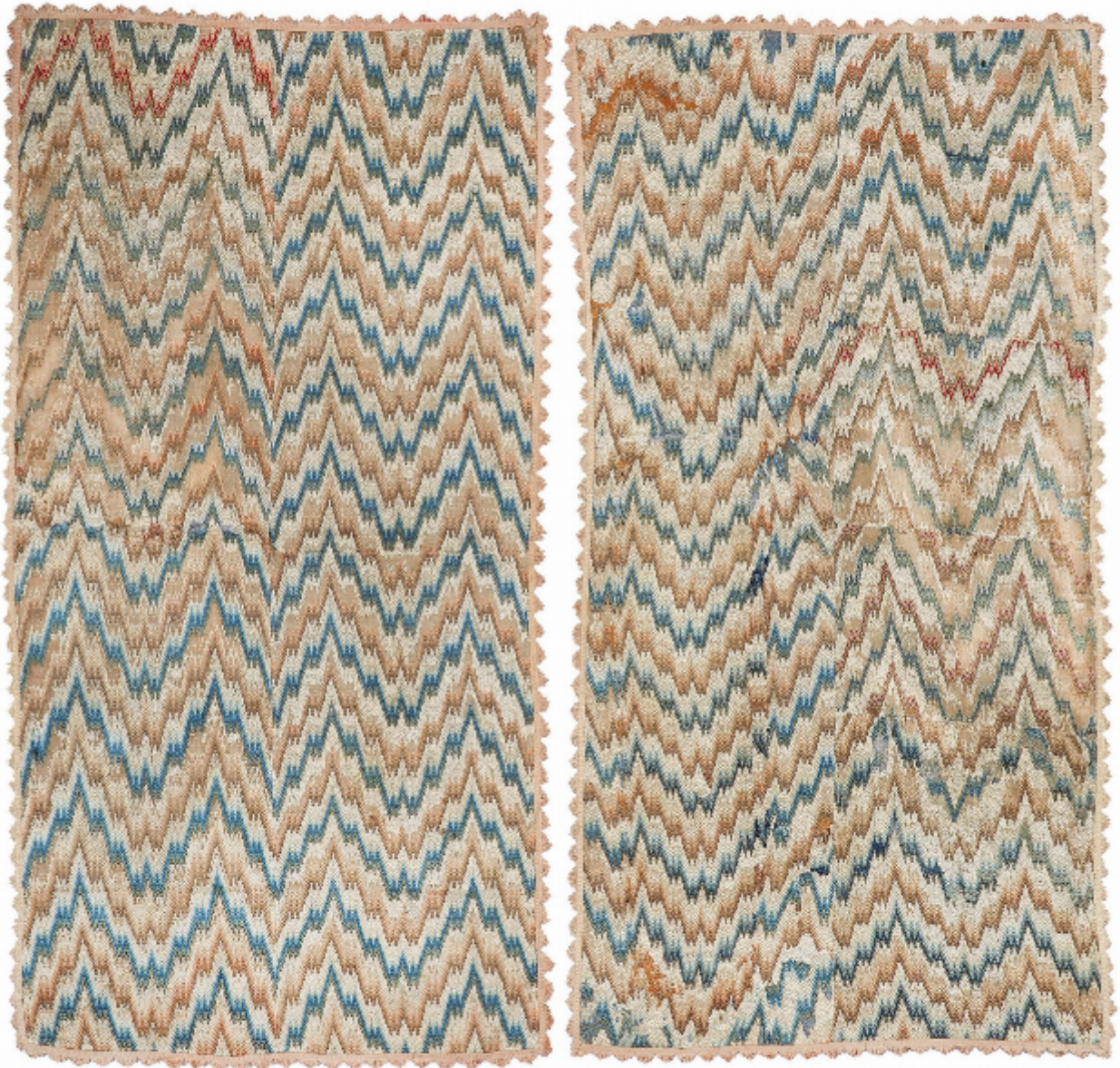


Bargello Flamestitch Silk Embroidery Florence Spetchley Park Bed  
Curtains Pair

£7,200



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REF: 11571

Height: 192 cm (75.6")

Width: 100 cm (39.4")

Depth: 1 cm (0.4")

## Description

Spetchley park, Bargello, silk, bed curtains adapted into wall hangings in the 19th century

- The use of silk, patterning and size suggests that these striking Bargello hangings were almost certainly conceived as bed curtains. In the Green Chamber at Parham House the State Bed is hung with Bargello curtains, pelmets and valences c1620. Like the Parham bed curtains, the Spetchley Park bed curtains have two horizontal pattern repeats in each drop. Needless to say, surviving bed curtains 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 curtains are really beautiful and luxurious. They were made as elite objects and have not lost their gravitas or their character and charm.
- The Spetchley Park bed curtains were adapted into wall hangings in the 19th century. They are versatile and could easily be reinstated as curtains or panels within larger curtains.
- Bargello work has a classic timeless quality to it and blends with most decorative schemes whether period or contemporary

Each panel is made from two sections of bargello. The step (pattern) comprising two rows of short vertical stitches over two threads of graduating numbers of stitches up and down with two rows of long vertical stitches over six threads of graduating numbers of stitches up and down. Worked in graduating shades of blue, green, brown, red, tan and ivory silks on a hessian ground. The four edges of each hanging are faced with a 19th century, dusky pink fan edged braid. Lined in beige linen with velcro at the top for hanging. The reds have faded which is usual. There are areas of loss throughout where the hessian canvas is visible on close inspection although it is not noticeable when hung and some loose threads. Old repairs throughout commensurate with age and use. Hanging 1: Length 100 cm, height 192cm made from two traditional width panels of bargello Hanging 2: Length 97 cm, height 190 cm made from two traditional width panels of bargello

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 t...