

Settee, Sofa, Double-Chair Back, Brussels Tapestry, X-Stretcher,  
Walnut, 1700

Sold



REF: 11516

Height: 125 cm (49.2")

Width: 125 cm (49.2")

Depth: 61 cm (24")

## Description

An exceptionally, rare, transitional, double-chair, settee, circa 1700, upholstered in fine, 17th century Brussels tapestry. Just purchased, more information and images available soon. - From the 1690s upholstered settees formed part of the lavish furnishings of the state rooms of a great house which were created as a showcase demonstrating the wealth and status of the owner. They were supplied with sets of chairs en suite, and usually upholstered in silk or velvet to match a state bed.

- These high-backed settees were made for the elite market and the few that survive are mainly found in Historic House or Museum Collections. This model where the wings have been removed from the back to show the tapestry to full advantage transitional dating from circa 1700 and very rare. - Most of these late 17th century settees were upholstered in velvet or silk. Very few survive with either tapestry, needlework or embroidered upholstery, most dating from the early 18th century.

- The framework of the settee is stable and suitable for occasional use as the tapestry is hardwearing. - This settee exudes the charm and character of the earliest model of formal settees injecting period atmosphere and grandeur into any interior.

- The design of this tapestry has stylised masks above cornucopia filled with flowers either side of and supporting oval vignettes with verdure landscape scenes within each section of the back and the central section in the seat all sized to fit within the frame and of a fine quality that reflects the high status of this piece. The sizing and condition suggests that this tapestry is original to the settee which is exceptionally rare. There are some nail marks on the underside of the seat rails indicating that something else was part of the upholstery which could have been an edge, as on the back and one siderail, or that this tapestry is not the original upholstery but the quality and sizing of it suggest otherwise. The juxtaposition of the darker tree so that it is on the outside of each oval illustrates the fine quality of the tapestry and supports the suggestion that it was made for this settee or another of virtually the same proportions. The seat design mirrors the design of the back illustrating the fine quality of the tapestry and that it was made en-suite with the back for this settee or another of virtually the same proportions.

The high back settee is a two seat, design with scroll arms and a single, loose seat cushion all upholstered in fine 17th century Brussels tapestry. This was evidently made for a piece of furniture of this type as the design marries up convincingly with the frame of the settee.

Standing on six, turned and faceted legs, joined by 'X' stretchers surmounted with finials, on bun feet. The base has been gessoed and gilded, probably when the settee was originally made, and traces of this remain on the legs and stretchers. This has resulted in a slightly less deep patina than might otherwise have been the case, but it does indicate that the piece would have been highly regarded as gilded furniture of this period was generally confined to the great collections such as Knole Park in Kent. The back seat rail and one finial are replacements. There are some...