



Two Console Tables, first quarter of the 18th century
 Carved giltwood and marble
 Each: 103 x 112 x 67 cm (40 1/2 x 44 1/8 x 26 3/8 in.)

Provenance

Palazzo Spalletti Trivelli, Rome.

Description

This sumptuous pair of late Baroque console tables demonstrate the exuberance and craftsmanship of fine furniture in Rome in the first quarter of the 18th century. The ornate carved elements burst with decorative elements including caryatids, cartouches, and floral and bestial designs. Such magnificent consoles were an essential for Roman aristocratic palaces, often presented in pairs with matching chairs or mirrors, to create the perfect symmetry and opulence desired by the collectors and taste-makers of the era. These examples later belonged in the Palazzo Spalletti Trivelli, the seat of one of the most illustrious Roman families and collections of the time.

The present pair also demonstrate the exceptional *pietre dure* tradition in Rome; the orange and cream speckled marble top appears to have a perfect symmetry, however on closer inspection the complex design of multiple fragments of the stone is revealed (fig. 1). The gilt wooden carving complements the semi-precious material of the marble, acting as a trompe l'oeil and suggesting the entire console is fabricated from precious metals and stones.

These tables underline the unique furniture production of Rome at this time, in contrast to other cities such as Naples, Genoa, Milan and Florence, where the rococo was becoming more fashionable. In Rome, the grandeur of the Baroque continued to hold precedence into the early

18th-century, notably embodied in the furniture industry which saw the creation of exquisite pieces such as this pair of consoles.

Fig. 1 – marble top showing intricate symmetrical design.