

CREEL AND GOW



ÉMILE GALLÉ ART NOUVEAU FOLDING GAMES TABLE, CIRCA 1902-1904

SKU: FN58

Categories: [Tables & Desks](#), [Decor](#)

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

CREEL AND GOW

Émile Gallé (French, 1846–1904) Folding Games Table (Table à Jeux) Circa 1902–1904 An exceptional Art Nouveau folding games table by Émile Gallé, masterfully crafted in molded cedar and walnut with richly detailed marquetry in various woods. The square top opens to reveal a gaming surface accessed by a discreet apron drawer, demonstrating both technical ingenuity and refined elegance. The exterior marquetry is decorated with flowering magnolia branches, while the interior reveals a poetic composition of chestnut leaves, a butterfly, and symbolic motifs representing the four suits of playing cards—an allegorical nod to leisure, nature, and chance, central themes in Gallé's late work. The table stands on four gracefully curved, fluted legs at the corners, emphasizing fluidity and organic movement typical of the Art Nouveau aesthetic. The drawer is fitted with a gilt-metal pull modeled as a flower. The piece is signed within the marquetry on the upper surface. Condition reflects age and use, with minor losses, surface scratches, staining, fading, and wear consistent with period furniture. A closely related example is held in the permanent collection of the Musée d'Orsay, Paris (inventory no. OAO 1469), underscoring the importance and rarity of this model. Literature: – Alastair Duncan and Georges de Barthé, *Gallé Furniture*, Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge, 2012, model no. 8, illustrated p. 134. – *Un ensemble Art Nouveau : la donation Rispal*, Musée d'Orsay & Flammarion, Paris, 2006, model no. 19, illustrated p. 60. Dimensions: Height: 30" Width (closed): 22.25" Width (open): 44.75" Depth: approx. 22.25"