

CREEL AND GOW



PAINTED FOLK ART CHAIR-LADDER WITH BIRD MOTIF, DATED 1830

SKU: FN21

Categories: [Seating](#), [Decor](#)

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

This charming early 19th-century retractable chair is crafted in painted wood and ingeniously designed to convert into a small stepladder, reflecting the practical ingenuity of vernacular European furniture. The backrest and side panels are hand-painted on a rich green ground with a lively bird perched among flowering branches and scrolling foliate motifs, rendered in warm earth tones and soft ochres. The seat bears a painted date, "1830," anchoring the piece firmly within the Biedermeier-era tradition of functional yet decorative domestic furnishings. Likely produced for a rural or alpine interior, such convertible chairs—often referred to as chair-ladders or metamorphic furniture—were valued for their dual purpose in modest households. The form features gently shaped supports, a lift-out or folding seat, and stepped interior construction that allows the chair to transform seamlessly into a ladder. The surface displays a well-preserved, time-softened patina consistent with age and use, enhancing its authenticity and charm. Both decorative and practical, this rare painted chair offers strong visual appeal as a folk-art object while also illustrating early 19th-century craftsmanship and everyday domestic life. Dimensions: 19.5" L x 12" W x 35" H Seat Height: 18.5" H