

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item A WHIMSICAL GEORGE III PAINTED ARCHITECTURAL CORNER CUPBOARD

Date England, or possibly Wales, circa 1760-1780.

Provenance Private collection, Malvern, Worcestershire.

Dimensions Height 80 1/2" (204) Width 44" (112cm) Depth 22 1/2" (57)

Description *The Doric cornice formed as triglyphs and metopes inset with rosettes, over a chevron frieze, above a pair of soft blue- and buff-painted long doors with faux astragal and shell-pink rosettes, opening to reveal a pewter and blue verditer shaped and domed-backed interior with fretted-out corners, over a door applied with scrolling decoration, flanked by a pair of full-length architectural columns; losses, repairs and replacements; retaining some of the original painted surface.*

This extraordinary corner cupboard defies architectural description, from the mannered Doric cornice² of triglyphs and metopes above the pair of upper doors, which imitate the glazing bars on a library bookcase¹, to the lower single door, exuberantly carved with curly scrolls³ resembling the Boscobel oak - the entire confection punctuated with carved rosettes.

This cabinet would originally have been painted all over but centuries of scrubbing have revealed much of the original pine surface with only evanescent sections of original pigment remaining: the soft blue and buffs of the doors, the shell-pink-painted rosettes and the pewtery-lead and soft blueish-green interior, of perhaps blue verditer or Prussian blue. One can only speculate that both the carving and paint colours would have been envisaged to harmonise with a specific eighteenth-century Palladian-influenced interior, now lost.

Price £12,000

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Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3