



C U P W I T H M O U N T E D T U R B O M A R M O R A T U S

Silver-gilt and *Turbo marmoratus*

Unmarked. Germany, circa 1680

Height 17,5 cm

The *Turbo marmoratus*, native of the Indian and Pacific oceans, is a shell particularly appreciated in the 16th and 17th centuries because of its exoticism and the quality of the mother-of-pearl.

The goldsmiths transformed these shells into works decorated with sea horses, Tritons and Nereids (Dresden, Grünes Gewölbe, inv. n° IV 118 ; IV 295 ; Écouen, Musée national de la Renaissance, inv. n° E.Cl. 20557). The marine world was an inexhaustible source of inspiration, as shown by the finely carved dolphin that supports this small bowl.