



# HEYWOOD HILL

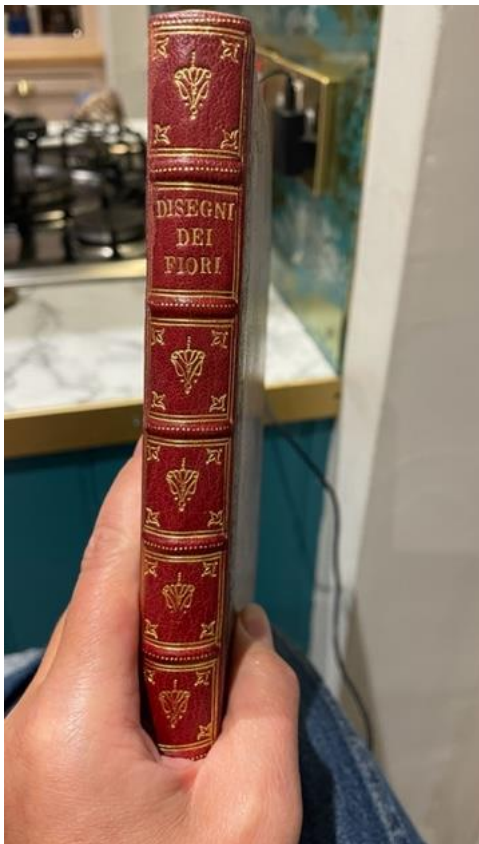
MAYFAIR

Late C18th Italian collection of 24 original botanical watercolours painted on vellum.

24 exquisitely painted botanical drawings on vellum (sheet size 125 x 195 mm) bound together in contemporary red morocco boards with rich gilt borders, sometime rebacked, spine lettered "Disegni dei Fiori". **£18,000**

The paintings are numbered in ink on the reverse of the image, some images are captioned in ink in a contemporary hand. The gem-like colours remain bright and fresh.

Paintings on vellum have a particular luminosity and clarity. The paint sits on the vellum surface, which gives transparent watercolours a jewel-like quality and remarkably crisp edges. Paper on the other hand is absorbent, so the paint sinks into the surface which allows a slight bleed along the edges.





Traditionally vellum was one of the supports used for non-wall paintings. Early alternatives included wooden boards covered with gesso and subsequently canvas made of various threads.

Vellum was also used for illuminations in medieval manuscripts and books and was a common base for miniatures.

Vellum was used by Albrecht Dürer in the 16th century for his paintings of plants. Botanical painters in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries - such as Marrel, Ehret, Merian, Robert, Aubriet and Redouté- also typically used vellum for their botanical illustrations.

Much of the artwork by Ehret and Merian that can be seen online is in the form of engravings of their paintings. However their original watercolour paintings were painted on vellum.

