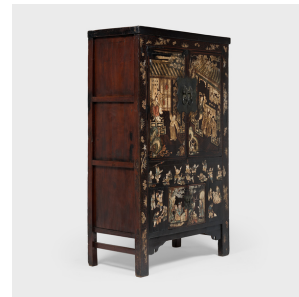
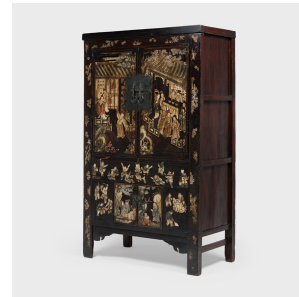

PAGODA RED



PAINTED BLACK LACQUER SCHOLARS' CABINET

\$22,800

c. 1800 • China • Pigment, Northern Elmwood, Lacquer • Collection #PRA008

W: 50.5" D: 24.0" H: 81.75"

Constructed with four doors, this spectacular Qing-dynasty cabinet from the mid-19th century is lavishly painted with scenes of courtly life in a grand palace garden. Seamlessly constructed and darkly lacquered, the tall cabinet provides the perfect blank canvas for an artist's painted embellishments.

The upper doors depict a gathering of scholar-officials and fine ladies in a traditional courtyard pavilion. The lower doors are painted with mythical wise men navigating the wilderness with their young attendants. Continued...



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Surrounding the lower doors are several boys leaping about and playing together, a version of the Hundred Boys motif, reflecting the cultural desire to carry on the familial name and bring honor and prosperity to one's family. Framing the cabinet is a border of bamboo and plum blossoms, both symbols of longevity, set against a cracked ice lattice pattern.

This square corner cabinet has a clean-lined form with straight sides and a simply carved apron. The upper doors open to reveal a large interior fitted with one shelf and three shallow drawers, while the lower doors open to a smaller compartment intended for cold-weather clothing and long-term storage. Beneath the painted decoration, the cabinet boasts a dark brown lacquer finish, now heavily crackled from two centuries of use.

