Cabinet

Place of origin: France (Possibly Toulouse, based on a drawing made in Toulouse c1600 of a very similar cabinet (omitting 19th century areas of restoration); Recueil 41, École nationale des Beaux Arts, Paris, made)

Date: 1570-1590 (made)
1820-1840 (restored)

Materials and Techniques: walnut, ivory, mother of pearl

Museum number: 8453:1 to 3-1863

Gallery location: In Storage

Descriptive line
Cabinet, French, 1580, restored c1820-40

Physical description
Cabinet of carved walnut wood, in three stages. The body or middle stage is supported on two grotesque winged sphinxes, the centre panel carved with the subject of David and Goliath, flanked by figures in niches of Justice and Fortitude; in the pediment is the subject of Judith and Holofrenes. The whole is decorated with columns, masks, terminal figures, foliage, etc and the plain surfaces inlaid with marquetry of ivory, mother of pearl marbles and coloured woods.

Museum number
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Object history note
Purchased for £300 from the Soulages collection

Historical context note
Comparable pieces

Design sources
For the sphinx figures, see Thirion's discussion p. 196-7, noting the Grandes Grotesques by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau and prints by Aldegrever (1549) and Theodorede Bry. See also the armoire a deux corps attributed to Antoine Morizot, musee Paul Dupuy, Toulouse (inv. 13 481 D), and on the facade of the chateau de Verneuil, depicted by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau in the Plus excellents Bastimens de France vol. I (Paris, 1576), see Peter Fuhring, 'Furniture design in sixteenth-century France: Master Rb's designs for cabinets' in The Burlington Magazine, October 2016, CLVIII., pp.784-792, n.31

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O118924/cabinet/