Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Chinese Rice Paper Bird Painting, Circa 1810

£95

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REF: 7721

Description

A charming Regency-period Chinese rice paper painting of two birds, dating to circa 1810 and presented in an elegant verre églomisé mount. Delicate in both execution and scale, the work captures the enduring European fascination with Chinese art and natural history during the early 19th century.

The birds are sensitively painted with fine brushwork and gentle colouring, set against a spare ground that draws attention to their graceful forms and plumage. Works on rice paper were prized for their remarkable delicacy and for the precision with which Chinese artists recorded birds, flowers, costume, trades, and everyday life. Their translucency and lightness gave them a distinctive visual quality unlike that of conventional paper paintings.

The painting is enhanced by a verre églomisé mount: reverse-painted and gilded glass that lends a subtle richness and luminosity to the composition. This sophisticated framing treatment is especially well suited to the refined decorative taste of the Regency period, combining Chinese artistry with European craftsmanship and display.

A beautifully decorative object with a quiet, poetic presence, this framed painting would sit effortlessly in a drawing room, library, bedroom, or cabinet of curiosities. It would make an appealing addition to a collection of Chinese export art, Regency pictures, ornithological subjects, or early 19th-century decorative objects.

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