Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Pair of 19th-Century Gothic Revival Carved Limestone Winged Beast Corbels

£1,250

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REF: 7786

Description

A striking and highly decorative pair of 19th-century Gothic Revival carved limestone architectural corbels, each fashioned as a crouching winged mythical beast. Rich in character and architectural presence, the creatures are boldly sculpted with expressive leonine heads, layered feathered wings, curling tails and deeply worked foliate ornament. Their animated forms and strong silhouettes recall the fantastic gargoyles, grotesques and supporting figures found across medieval ecclesiastical architecture.

Probably English and dating from the second half of the 19th century, these impressive carvings were likely created for incorporation into a church, chapel, country house or other substantial Gothic Revival building. During this period, architects and craftsmen drew deeply on medieval precedents, reviving the drama, symbolism and hand-carved texture of Gothic ornament. The combination of mythical beasts and naturalistic foliage is particularly characteristic of this tradition, bringing a sense of narrative and movement to what would once have been an integral architectural detail.

Now presented as sculptural objects in their own right, the pair retain all the visual impact of their original setting. The weathered limestone surface, crisp carving and wonderfully expressive faces give them an enduring sense of age and presence. Displayed together, they would make a remarkable focal point in an interior, garden room, orangery or entrance hall; equally, they would appeal to collectors of antique stonework, ecclesiastical furnishings and Gothic Revival design. A rare and evocative pair, offering both decorative drama and a tangible connection to the romantic architectural imagination of the 19th century.

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