

18th century carved coral brooch

£2,450



Description

A fine and rare 18th century carved coral brooch of Leda and the swan set in yellow gold, circa 1770

Leda and the Swan is a famous myth from Greek mythology, in which the god Zeus transforms into a swan and seduces Leda, the queen of Sparta. In some versions, Leda and the swan mate, and as a result, she becomes pregnant with two eggs. From these eggs hatch two sets of twins: Helen and Clytemnestra, and Castor and Pollux.

The myth symbolises themes of power, transformation, and divine intervention, often depicting the delicate balance between humanity and the gods. It has been a popular subject in art, particularly in painting and sculpture, representing beauty and tragedy intertwined.