Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

18th-Century Silver Walnut Pomander Pendant, Circa 1780

£425

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REF: 7176

Description

A rare and unusually large late 18th-century silver pomander, skilfully modelled in the naturalistic form of a walnut and dating to circa 1780. Combining wit, delicacy, and practical purpose, this delightful object is a fine example of the miniature works of art created for personal adornment in the Georgian period.

The textured silver shell closely evokes the deeply furrowed surface of a walnut, its two halves opening to reveal the interior compartment. Originally, such a vessel would have held perfumed materials-perhaps aromatic herbs, spices, or scented pastes-worn to provide a pleasant fragrance and, in earlier traditions, to guard against unpleasant odours. Suspended as a pendant, it would have been both an intimate personal accessory and an elegant conversation piece.

Pomanders have a long history, but examples of this size, naturalistic quality, and survival are particularly appealing. The walnut form reflects the enduring 18th-century taste for objects that combined natural observation with playful ingenuity. Its richly worked surface gives the piece a sculptural presence, while its concealed interior speaks to the discreet luxury and refinement of Georgian personal objects.

A wonderful addition to a collection of antique scent containers, Georgian silver, or unusual objets de vertu. Equally compelling as a decorative object, it offers a tangible connection to the rituals of dress, fragrance, and personal adornment in the late 18th century.

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