

Pair of George III silhouette portraits

£95



REF: 7779

Height: 8 cm (3.1")

Width: 7 cm (2.8")

Framed Height: 14 cm (5.5")

Framed Width: 12 cm (4.7")

Description

A pair of George III ebony-framed silhouette portraits with gilt highlights, circa 1820.

Silhouette portraits became especially fashionable in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, offering an affordable alternative to painted miniatures. Usually depicting a sitter in profile, they were created by cutting black paper, painting an image in ink or watercolour, or using techniques such as hollow cutting.

Skilled artists could capture a remarkably convincing likeness with just the outline of the face, hair and clothing. Silhouettes were often mounted on pale paper and displayed in small oval or rectangular frames.

Today, antique silhouettes are charming records of Georgian and Victorian society, valued for their elegance, individuality and historical interest.