Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Victorian Metal Hand-Held Speaking Trumpet, Circa 1900

£75

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REF: 3847

Description

Make yourself heard with this wonderfully characterful metal speaking trumpet, dating to circa 1900. With its broad flared horn, tapered mouthpiece, and practical integral handle, it is a handsome survival from the years before electronic amplification, when a strong voice and a well-made megaphone were indispensable for communicating at distance.

Made in robust metal with a dark, time-softened surface, the trumpet has a strong industrial simplicity and a particularly pleasing sculptural form. The wide bell was designed to project and direct the voice, while the handle allowed it to be held securely during use. Its appealingly utilitarian construction gives the piece real presence, whether displayed as an early communications object or used as an unusual decorative accent.

Speaking trumpets of this type were employed in many settings around the turn of the 20th century: at public gatherings, sporting events, factories, railway platforms, and on boats, where clear instructions had to carry above distance and noise. Before microphones and loudspeakers became commonplace, they were practical tools of public address, their unmistakable silhouette becoming a familiar feature of Victorian and Edwardian life.

Today, this example would make a striking addition to an industrial interior, library, office, studio, shop display, or collection of antique scientific and communication instruments. It is an engaging object with a bold form, genuine patina, and an irresistible invitation to speak up.

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