Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Late 19th-Century Gold-Framed Shell Cameo Brooch of a Goddess in a Chariot

£245

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REF: 7263

Description

A late 19th-century oval shell cameo brooch, finely carved in high relief with a classical goddess riding in a chariot, and mounted in a gold frame. Dating to circa 1890, this evocative jewel reflects the enduring Victorian fascination with the art, mythology, and visual language of the ancient world.

The finely graduated layers of the shell have been skilfully used to create contrast between the pale carved scene and its darker ground. At its centre, the goddess appears in her chariot, a dynamic subject that lends unusual movement and narrative to the composition. The scene draws on the classical tradition so admired during the 19th century, when cameos were cherished as both wearable works of art and symbols of learning, taste, and refinement.

The smooth oval mount and restrained gold setting allow the carving to take centre stage, giving the brooch a timelessly elegant profile. Its classical subject, warm shell tones, and beautifully detailed execution make it equally compelling as an item of antique jewellery and as a miniature work of sculpture.

A sophisticated and wearable example of late Victorian cameo jewellery, ideal for collectors of carved shell cameos, classical revival design, and antique gold jewellery. It would be equally beautiful worn as a statement brooch or displayed as part of a carefully assembled collection.

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