Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

19th-Century Carved Shell Cameo Brooch of a Grecian Goddess

£125

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 7260

Description

A finely carved late 19th-century shell cameo brooch, set within a delicate silver frame and dating to circa 1880. The oval cameo depicts a serene Grecian goddess emerging among softly modelled clouds, her classical profile and flowing drapery rendered in high relief against the warm, contrasting ground of the shell.

The subject reflects the enduring Victorian fascination with the ancient world. Greek and Roman mythology offered jewellers and cameo carvers a rich visual language of beauty, virtue, and romantic symbolism, and images of goddesses were especially admired for their grace and timeless elegance. Here, the gentle expression of the figure and the atmospheric cloud setting give the composition a particularly dreamlike quality.

The cameo is framed in silver, whose cool tone complements the natural cream and honey hues of the carved shell. The refined oval form makes the brooch easy to wear, while its finely detailed carving ensures that it is equally appealing as a collector's piece or display object.

A beautiful example of Victorian cameo jewellery, combining classical subject matter, skilled shell carving, and understated period design. It would make a thoughtful addition to a collection of antique jewellery, cameos, or objects inspired by classical antiquity.

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