Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Early Victorian Banded Agate Mourning Brooch, Circa 1840

£85

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REF: 6503

Description

An Early Victorian Pinchbeck and Banded Agate Hairwork Memorial Brooch, Circa 1840

A beautifully evocative early Victorian memorial brooch, dating to circa 1840, set with a striking panel of banded agate within a warm-toned pinchbeck mount. The agate's natural layers create a wonderfully subtle play of colour and texture, lending the jewel a restrained elegance that is characteristic of the period.

To the reverse is a glazed compartment containing a lock of hair, preserved as a personal memento of a loved one. Such jewels were worn as intimate expressions of affection, remembrance, and mourning. In an age when sentimental jewellery held profound personal meaning, hairwork provided a tangible connection to someone absent or dearly remembered.

The use of pinchbeck-a gold-coloured alloy prized for its rich appearance-alongside the natural beauty of banded agate gives this brooch a quietly luxurious quality. Its simple, purposeful form allows the materials and deeply personal memorial element to remain at the centre of the design.

A poignant and highly wearable survivor from the early Victorian period, this brooch would make a compelling addition to a collection of mourning jewellery, sentimental jewellery, agate jewellery, or 19th-century personal adornment. It is an object of both decorative beauty and enduring human sentiment.

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