Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Pair of George III Ebony-Framed Silhouette Portraits with Gilt Highlights, Circa 1820

£95

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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 refined and atmospheric pair of George III period silhouette portraits, dating to circa 1820. Each profile is crisply cut and presented against a pale ground, with delicate gilt highlights lending definition and a subtle sense of luxury to the otherwise restrained black-and-white composition. Housed in handsome ebony frames, the portraits have a beautifully balanced, formal appearance and remain a wonderful expression of Regency-era taste.

Silhouette portraiture flourished in Britain during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Before photography, these intimate likenesses offered an elegant and comparatively accessible means of recording a loved one's appearance. The finest examples required considerable skill: the profile had to be instantly recognisable, while a minimum of line, cut paper, and painted detail conveyed the sitter's character, dress, and bearing.

The rich ebony frames provide a striking contrast to the light backgrounds and dark profiles, while the gilt detailing catches the eye and enhances the decorative quality of each portrait. Displayed together, the pair have the quiet formality of a family portrait, whether or not the sitters were originally intended as companions.

A highly decorative and evocative pair for a drawing room, library, hallway, or bedroom. They would also make an excellent addition to a collection of Georgian or Regency portraiture, period frames, or antique decorative arts. Their compact scale and timeless monochrome palette allow them to sit beautifully within both traditional and contemporary interiors.

England, circa 1820. Ebony frames with silhouette portraits and gilt highlights. Please refer to the photographs for condition, dimensions, and framing details.

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