Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

19th-Century Carved Fluorite Lotus Brush Washer

£345

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REF: 5717

Height: 3 cm (1.2")

Width: 6 cm (2.4")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A finely carved 19th-century fluorite brush washer in the form of a lotus, formerly from the collection of Lady Mariam Marks, Baroness Broughton. Elegantly fashioned from a single piece of richly variegated fluorite, the vessel takes the form of an unfurling lotus bloom, its softly rounded petals carefully layered to create a sense of natural movement and depth.

The translucent mineral displays a beautiful interplay of colour and light, with tonal variations inherent to the fluorite lending the object a distinctive, almost luminous character. This natural veining and colouration make each carved fluorite object unique, while the finely worked lotus form elevates the piece beyond its practical purpose into a small work of sculpture.

Brush washers were an important part of the scholar's desk, used to rinse ink from brushes during the preparation of calligraphy and painting. The lotus, long admired for its beauty and symbolic associations with purity, renewal, and cultivation, was a particularly fitting subject for such an object. Its graceful form and quiet symbolism would have made this piece both useful and visually rewarding in a scholar's studio or collector's cabinet.

With its refined carving, attractive material, and distinguished provenance, this is an appealing example of 19th-century hardstone craftsmanship. It would make a thoughtful addition to a collection of Asian works of art, scholar's objects, carved minerals, or decorative antiques.

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