

Finch & C^o



A CAMEO BROOCH DEPICTING VENUS AND CUPID
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GOLD-MOUNTED

HARD-STONE CAMEO, GOLD

18TH CENTURY

ITALY

SIZE: 3.8CM DIA - 1½ INS

WEIGHT: 26.5 GRAMS

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PROVENANCE:

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION, SALZBURG

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LITERATURE

A METICULOUSLY CRAFTED DOUBLE-LAYERED HARD-STONE CAMEO, FEATURING VENUS SEATED BESIDE A PAIR OF COURTING DOVES, WITH CUPID PRESENTING A BASKET OF FLOWERS. THE ENGRAVER EMPLOYS THE STONE'S STRATIFICATION TO ACCENTUATE THE FIGURES IN CREAMY RELIEF AGAINST A WARM BROWN GROUND, ACHIEVING REMARKABLE DEPTH AND CLARITY. SEMI-DRAPED VENUS EMBODIES THE GRACE AND SENSUALITY CHARACTERISTIC OF CLASSICAL SCULPTURE, WHILE CUPID'S GESTURE CONVEYS AFFECTIONATE DEVOTION. THE DESIGN EMBODIES THE 18TH-CENTURY ITALIAN REVIVAL OF ANCIENT ROMAN THEMES, PARTICULARLY FAVOURED BY GRAND TOUR COLLECTORS.

PRODUCED IN WORKSHOPS IN ROME OR NAPLES, CAMEOS OF THIS CALIBER WERE RENOWNED FOR THEIR CLASSICAL POISE AND TECHNICAL FINESSE. SET WITHIN A SMOOTH, HIGH-CARAT GOLD MOUNT, THIS BROOCH ENCAPSULATES THE EQUILIBRIUM OF ELEGANCE AND SIMPLICITY THAT DEFINED THE LATE BAROQUE AND EARLY NEOCLASSICAL AESTHETIC, HARMONIOUSLY BLENDING ANTIQUE INSPIRATION WITH REFINED ITALIAN CRAFTSMANSHIP.

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