Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Collection of Chinese Carved Wood Souvenir Figures

£95

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REF: 7532

Description

A charming collection of early 20th-century Chinese carved wood figures, made as souvenirs for visitors and collectors drawn to the artistry, costume, and visual traditions of China. Each figure is individually carved, with expressive features, stylised dress, and a warm patina that enhances the natural character of the wood.

Small souvenir carvings such as these were popular during the late Qing and Republican periods, when travellers and overseas collectors sought portable objects that captured aspects of Chinese daily life, folklore, and traditional costume. Although made for the export and souvenir market, they retain a pleasing degree of individuality: subtle differences in facial expression, posture, carving, and finish lend each figure its own personality.

Displayed as a group, the figures make a wonderfully decorative and atmospheric collection. They would sit beautifully in a cabinet of curiosities, on a bookshelf, desk, or mantelpiece, and offer an engaging glimpse into the history of early 20th-century travel and collecting. Their modest scale and hand-carved detail also make them appealing additions to collections of Asian decorative arts, folk art, or vintage souvenirs.

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