Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Early Victorian Grand Tour Pietra Dura Floral Brooch, Circa 1840

£125

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REF: 7177

Description

An exquisite early Victorian Grand Tour pietra dura floral plaque brooch, mounted in a silver frame and dating to circa 1840. The finely composed hardstone mosaic depicts a delicate floral spray, assembled from precisely cut and polished coloured stones to create a richly detailed design of enduring beauty.

Pietra dura-literally "hard stone"-is the celebrated Italian technique in which thin sections of semi-precious stone are expertly cut, fitted together, and polished to form pictorial or ornamental compositions. Popular with affluent British and European travellers returning from Italy, these intricate works became prized souvenirs of the Grand Tour, combining artistic craftsmanship with the romance of classical travel.

The floral composition is characteristic of the tradition, its varied tones and naturalistic detail demonstrating the remarkable skill required to create an image from individual fragments of stone. Set within its simple silver mount, the plaque remains the focus of the jewel, lending the brooch a restrained elegance that makes it especially wearable.

A beautiful survivor from the early Victorian period, this brooch offers an evocative connection to 19th-century travel, Italian decorative arts, and the enduring appeal of hand-crafted jewellery. It would make a distinguished addition to a collection of Grand Tour jewellery, pietra dura work, antique brooches, or Victorian jewels.

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