Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Regency Miniature Portrait of an English Gentleman in an Ebony Frame, Circa 1810

£75

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 7778

Height: 7 cm (2.8")

Width: 6 cm (2.4")

Framed Height: 14 cm (5.5")

Framed Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Description

A finely executed Regency miniature portrait of an English gentleman, painted circa 1810 and presented in an elegant ebony frame. The sitter is shown in three-quarter view, dressed in a formal black frock coat, with the restrained confidence and polished appearance associated with the Regency gentleman.

The miniature captures the quiet sophistication of the period: dark, tailored clothing is set against the delicately painted features of the sitter, drawing attention to his expression and complexion. The black frock coat, high collar, and understated presentation reflect a moment when men's fashion had moved away from the elaborate colour and ornament of the previous century towards a more refined, disciplined elegance.

Portrait miniatures were among the most intimate forms of Regency portraiture. Small enough to be kept close, displayed within the home, or carried while travelling, they were often commissioned as treasured personal mementoes for family members, friends, or loved ones. Their scale demanded considerable technical skill, with the artist required to convey character, likeness, and detail within a remarkably limited space.

The rich ebony frame provides a handsome and appropriate surround, its deep tone complementing the sitter's dark coat while lending the work a crisp, architectural finish. Together, portrait and frame create an object of exceptional visual restraint and period character.

A charming and evocative example of early 19th-century English portraiture, ideal for collectors of Regency art, portrait miniatures, and decorative objects with a strong sense of personal history. It would display beautifully within a library, drawing room, study, or gallery wall, either as a single focal point or as part of a larger group of antique portraits.

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