Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Persian Lacquered Gilt Box, Circa 1900

£25

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REF: 7525

Height: 10 cm (3.9")

Width: 17 cm (6.7")

Depth: 8 cm (3.1")

Description

A richly decorative Persian lacquered box, dating to circa 1900, and finely painted with an ornate gilt design. Its deep lacquer ground provides a dramatic setting for the intricate gilded ornament, which is composed with the delicacy, rhythm, and attention to detail characteristic of the Persian decorative tradition.

The surface is enlivened by a carefully worked pattern of scrolling foliage, floral motifs, and fine linear ornament, creating a luxurious interplay between the lustrous dark ground and the warm glow of gold. The compact form and highly finished decoration suggest an object intended to be handled and admired: perhaps for letters, jewellery, precious keepsakes, or small personal possessions.

Persian lacquerwork enjoyed a long and distinguished history, reaching particular refinement in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Artists adapted traditional manuscript illumination and floral painting to boxes, pen cases, mirror cases, and other domestic objects, transforming practical forms into elaborate works of miniature art. This example reflects that tradition beautifully, combining skilled painting with a refined decorative sensibility.

A handsome and versatile display piece, this box would sit naturally in an interior of classic, eclectic, or Middle Eastern-inspired character. It would also make a rewarding addition to a collection of Persian art, antique boxes, lacquerware, or decorative objects from the Islamic world.

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