



A silver brooch set with a large Neoclassical agate cameo. Bust of Maenad.

Circa: 19th century

Double-layered agate and silver

Stone: l. 3,3 x L. 4,2 cm

Brooch 3,6 x 4,6 cm ; 36,63 gr

19th century

The large double-layered agate cameo shows a very delicate female bust facing right. The head is characterized by fine features, a very elegant nose and beautiful lips with prominent chin. The hair composed of wavy locks are adorned by a band with grape and wine leaves, attached behind the head.

The bust in three-quarters which the folded drapery is executed with rendering volumes also testify the high quality work of the engraver, and his attention to details.

In ancient Greece, the maenad is a female follower of Bacchus, traditionally associated with divine possession and frenzied rites. Recorded from the late 16th century, the word comes via Latin from Greek Mainas, Mainad-, from mainesthai 'to rave'.