



A Late 18th century gold ring set with a carnelian intaglio. The Mariage of Love and Psyche.

Stone: l. 1,5 x l. 2,0 x W. 0,3.
US 7-7.25 / UK N½-O; 5,88 gr

The intaglio depicts the wedding of Eros and Psyche. At the center, the god of Love is shown winged and nude, carrying a torch on his shoulder, followed by Psyche concealed beneath a veil. The betrothed couple is accompanied by a procession of cherubs. The veil covering Psyche's face here carries a double meaning: the symbolic attribute that protects the bride's face before the sacred union, but also one that refers to her mortal condition, as she could not bear to look upon her divine spouse. This intaglio can be compared to a cameo from the Marlborough collection reproduced in an engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi (circa 1789/1790).