



**A Gold Ring Set with a Roman Onyx Cameo. Head of Gorgoneion.**

Ring size EU 53 / US 6¼

Weight 7.69 g

Cameo : 15 × 18 mm

Roman art, 3rd century A.D.

Mounting : later

A gold ring set with a Roman cameo carved from onyx, depicting a Gorgoneion — the frontal head of the Gorgon Medusa. The face is rendered in slight three-quarter view, carved in high relief in the white upper layer of the stone, set against the deep blue-black ground of the onyx. The serpentine hair is suggested by undulating ridges encircling the head. A small amber-toned inclusion punctuates the brow, a natural particularity of the stone. The carving displays the confident modelling characteristic of Roman glyptic art of the Imperial period.

*The cameo is Roman, dateable to the 3rd century AD on stylistic grounds, and is mounted in a later gold ring. The Gorgon head — apotropaic emblem par excellence in antiquity — was a favoured subject in Roman gem-carving, worn as personal protection. The three-quarter presentation of the face, departing from the canonical frontal Gorgoneion, reflects the naturalistic tendencies of later Imperial glyptic.*