



### **A Grand Tour Carnelian Intaglio A Young Faun Seated before a Herm of Pan**

Carnelian ; Diameter 16 mm

Grand Tour, 18th century

With original plaster cast

The circular carnelian, of a warm honey-orange tone, is engraved in intaglio with a graceful young Faun (Faunus) seated upon a rock in a pensive attitude, chin resting on his hand, an animal skin (nebris) gathered beneath him. Before him rises a hermaic pillar surmounted by an ithyphallic figure of Pan; at its foot, the double pipes (tibiae) stand planted in the ground — emblems of pastoral music and of the Dionysiac, bucolic world.

The pensive seated Faun reprises a celebrated antique prototype: the gem signed by the engraver Nikomachos (NICOMAC), in black agate and published by Domenico Augusto Bracci among the works of the ancient masters. The present intaglio is a variant of the fuller composition — the Faun combined with a herm of Pan and the double pipes — recorded by Philipp Daniel Lippert and in the Tassie collection. It is a fine accomplishment of 18th-century glyptic art in the antiquarian taste of the Grand Tour, when engravers revived the celebrated gems of antiquity for cultivated collectors.

### **References**

For the seated Faun, cf. D. A. Bracci, *Memorie degli antichi incisori*, II, Florence, 1786, pl. LXXXVII (gem signed by Nikomachos, black agate, formerly in the Odam cabinet, Rome). For the composition with the herm of Pan, cf. P. D. Lippert, *Dactyliothea*, no. 222 (onyx, formerly Wazdorff collection), and R. E. Raspe, *A Descriptive Catalogue of ... Engraved Gems ... cast ...* by James Tassie, London, 1791, no. 4708.

