



A Rare Greek Late Hellenistic Carnelian Intaglio: a Griffin Attacking a Swan

Carnelian - Dimensions: 10 × 12 × 2 mm

Greek, Late Hellenistic, 3rd-2nd century B.C.

Mounting on request

The intaglio is engraved in intaglio with a winged griffin springing upon a swan to the right. The fabulous beast is caught in a taut, lunging posture — wings raised, body tense — conveying the speed of its assault, while the swan, its sinuous neck thrown back, registers surprise. The engraver renders the anatomy with great finesse, musculature and plumage enlivened by globular elements, in a composition of remarkable balance and energy.

A fine example of Greek glyptic of the Classical period, the combat of a mythical creature being among the most prized subjects of the ancient gem-engraver.

Condition: wear marks and a small chip to the edge.