

Maison Auclert, Paris. A gold toi et moi ring set with a Roman amethyst intaglio of a bird and its gold impression

Intaglio 10 × 9 mm.

18k gold; ring size EU 55 – US 7¼ – UK O (resizable); gross weight 5.59 g.

Intaglio: Roman, 1st century BC – 2nd century AD

Mount: Maison Auclert, Paris, contemporary.

Condition: intaglio with light wear consistent with age; mount in very good condition. Signed AUCLERT and numbered N5HR12 inside the shank.

A toi et moi ring in 18k gold by Maison Auclert, Paris, its two oval bezels set side by side across the finger.

The first holds a Roman amethyst intaglio engraved with a bird, secured by fine claws; the second carries its impression cast in gold, which shows the image in relief and in its true direction. Stone and imprint face each other: the seal and the mark it was made to leave.

Historical context – Contemporary Parisian Jewellery

Marc Auclert, grandson of an antique dealer, founded his house in Paris after two decades with major jewellers. He revives the Renaissance practice of mounting ancient objects as jewels. His Intailles & Impressions pieces pair an ancient gem with its gold impression, each signed and numbered.

Iconography and symbolism

To the ancients the bird was a messenger, its flight read by the augurs as the will of the gods. The

amethyst, amethystos in Greek, “not drunk”, was believed to guard against intoxication (Pliny, Natural History XXXVII). The toi et moi form, made famous by the ring Napoleon gave Joséphine in 1796, joins two elements into one promise. Here the matrix and its trace become that couple.