Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Pair of Early 19th-Century Ebony-Framed Silhouette Portraits of a Father and Son, Circa 1840

£95

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 7782

Height: 9 cm (3.5")

Width: 7 cm (2.8")

Framed Height: 3 cm (1.2")

Framed Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Description

A charming and finely presented pair of early 19th-century silhouette portraits, depicting a father and son in profile, each set within an elegant oval ebony frame. Dating to circa 1840, the portraits offer a wonderfully intimate glimpse into domestic life and portraiture during the late Georgian and early Victorian period.

Silhouette portraiture became especially popular in Britain during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Before photography was widely available, the crisp profile likeness offered an affordable yet refined means of preserving the appearance of loved ones. Often made from life, either by tracing a shadow or cutting the profile freehand, such portraits were prized for their simplicity, accuracy, and quiet elegance.

The two sitters are sensitively paired: the father's more formal profile is complemented by the youthful likeness of his son, creating a touching family narrative. Their deep black profiles are beautifully framed by the warm, polished ebony surrounds, whose oval form gives the portraits a restrained, classical character.

Displayed together, these portraits make a particularly appealing decorative pair, whether hung in a drawing room, library, hallway, or within a wider collection of early portrait miniatures and period objects. They retain the personal charm that makes silhouettes so enduringly desirable, combining graphic simplicity with a tangible sense of family history.

A handsome and evocative pair of early 19th-century portraits, ideal for collectors of silhouettes, Georgian and Victorian decorative arts, or intimate historic portraiture.

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com