

Reverse glass painting of a pigeon

£195



REF: 7726

Height: 29 cm (11.4")

Width: 46 cm (18.1")

Description

An early 19th century framed reverse painting on glass of a racing pigeon, circa 1830.

Reverse glass painting is a decorative technique in which an image is painted onto the back of a sheet of glass and viewed through the front. Unlike conventional painting, the artist works in reverse, applying fine details and highlights first, followed by broader areas of colour and finally the background.

The technique has a long history, flourishing in Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and also becoming important in China, India and the Middle East. Subjects range from religious and allegorical scenes to landscapes, portraits and decorative motifs.

Surviving examples are prized for their luminous colours, distinctive depth and remarkable craftsmanship.