Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

American Folk-Art Chip-Carved Nutcrackers, 19th Century

£65

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REF: 7732

Height: 20 cm (7.9")

Width: 6 cm (2.4")

Depth: 2 cm (0.8")

Description

A charming pair of 19th-century American folk-art nutcrackers, hand-carved in wood and richly decorated with distinctive chip-carved motifs. Practical domestic implements in origin, they have been transformed by their maker's lively geometric ornament into engaging objects of vernacular sculpture.

Their robust, tactile forms retain the irregularity and individuality that give early American country-made pieces such appeal. Subtle differences in the hand carving, alongside the warm, mellowed patina of the wood, speak to their handmade character and to a tradition in which everyday household tools were often enhanced with imaginative personal decoration.

Likely made for domestic use, the pair offers a pleasing balance of utility, craftsmanship, and decorative charm. Displayed together, they form an evocative small-scale sculptural group, equally at home in a country-house kitchen, pantry, library, or cabinet of curiosities.

A wonderful addition for collectors of American folk art, early treen, and hand-crafted antiques. They would also bring texture, warmth, and a sense of collected history to a mantelpiece, coffee table, or open shelving, especially when grouped with antique ironwork, wooden utensils, and other rustic objects.

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