

SA1214517

Chinese Shoushan Stone Dragon & Pearl Scholar's Carving, Late 19th / Early 20th C.

Price

GBP 2,000

| USD \$2,706 | EUR 2,340

Item Reference: SA1214517**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 10.3 cm (4.1")

Width = 8 cm (3.1")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

A refined Chinese carved scholar's object in milky-white and cream Shoushan stone / cream soapstone, probably dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. The composition is centred on a classical and highly auspicious Chinese subject: dragons pursuing the sacred pearl among clouds. The upper part of the stone is carved in high relief with sinuous dragons, expressive heads, scrolling bodies, claws, cloud forms and the central pearl. In Chinese symbolism, the dragon is associated with power, protection, vitality and heavenly authority, while the pearl represents wisdom, spiritual force and the fulfilment of wishes. The carving is particularly successful because the craftsman has used the natural colour transition of the stone as an essential part of the design. The lower body remains in a calm milky-white tone, while the warmer cream and honey-coloured areas are used for the dragons and upper relief. This creates a natural pictorial effect, as though the dragons are emerging from the stone itself. The reddish natural veins are also beautifully incorporated into the composition. Rather than appearing as flaws, they enliven the surface and pass through the stone like na...

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