

# Justin Evershed-Martin

Fine Art and Design



## A Large Belle Époque Pier Mirror

A wonderful and glamorous large pier mirror with marginal glass borders in the baroque taste, the stepped arched top centred on a scrolling acanthus 'keystone', the sides in the form of pilasters topped with Corinthian capitals, the original fluted glass borders with some cracks, the mirror glass with some losses to the silvering.

England, circa 1900

H 196cm x W 92cm x D 6cm

(H 77 ¼ x W 36 ¼ x D 2 ½ in)

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Right:

The stepped, arched, top with the central 'keystone' supported on a scrolling acanthus leaf.

Below

The Corinthian capital between the panels of fluted glass.



The present mirror shows all the dramatic confidence of the early Georgian, or French Regence baroque style, yet is a distinctly early 20th century interpretation. The heavy, gilded architectural frame of an early 18th century example has been replaced by the beautiful panels of shaped and fluted border glass. The effect is to lighten and blur the form, the shaped glass reflecting light and whilst keeping the overall tone adding a shimmering effect that draws the eye upwards. The unusually stepped 'triumphal arch' top is accentuated with the zig zag effect of the geometric patterns in the glass.

The balance of architectural form and the palette of silver and gold of the ageing glass and gilding give the mirror a wonderfully timeless quality that reference both its aesthetic heritage and the Jazz Age designs of the art deco period that were soon to follow. Almost certainly created for a 'Gilded Age' mansion it is as decorative and glamorous as it was when commissioned.

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The mirror has had minimal restoration and retains all its original mirror glass which show varying and highly attractive signs of age. There are three cracks to the glass border plates, two of which are visible on the previous page, and the other to the central bottom plate, there is rubbing to the gilding in places.

