

*[Painting on velvet]: "Viet Nam. A Wife's love is like a rose hung on your chest..."*

Vietnam: [circa 1970]

\$350



Painting on black velvet. Measuring 11¾" x 16". Unsigned. Small cracks in the paint, lettering a little rubbed, stable and very good. Currently shrinkwrapped on to cardstock. A strange painting on black velvet depicting a soldier (or his wife?) rendered in the then popular big-eyed style of Margaret Keene, posed with an M15 behind barbed wire with a full moon in the background, silhouetting a fighter plane and helicopters in the sky, and tanks and rocket launchers on the ground. Beneath the picture is a poem celebrating a wife's love for her husband. A search of the poem's phrases revealed no comparable poetry. The big-eyed style renders the subject somewhat androgynous. Reportedly soldiers during the Vietnam War would commission these black velvet paintings most commonly painted and backed on balsa wood in either Korea or the Philippines and post them to their loved ones back home. A nearly identical example of this painting is featured at The Velveteria in Los Angeles, a museum that is the world's largest repository of velvet paintings. A terrific Vietnam War artifact, both maudlin and creepy in equal parts. [\[BTC#407448\]](#)



A Wife's love is like a rose hung on  
your chest. It reveals beauty and charm  
at its best.

My Wife's love is the world you see  
For it means so very much to me.  
I'm so glad that God above. Have  
to me such a Wife's Love.  
Your Husband.