



Nio



5 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 17 cm

Height : 40 cm

Depth : 12 cm

Description

A pair of wood and lacquered Nio, guardians of Buddhist temples, finely carved in polychromy with the muscles in evidence and the veins in relief.

The Nio (Jp. = benevolent kings) are a pair of protectors - Agyo and Ungyo - who stand guard outside the gate of Japanese Buddhist temples, one on either side of the entrance. In Japan, the gate itself is often called Nio-mon ??? (literally Nio Gate).

Agyo, on the right, holds a Vajra, a legendary and ritual weapon that symbolizes the properties of a diamond (indestructibility) and of a thunderbolt (irresistible force). Ungyo holds his left hand in a clenched fist.

Agyo ??

Open mouth pronouncing "AH" - to scare away

Dealer

Mastromauro

Japanese Art

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demons.

Ungyo ??

Mouth closed pronouncing "UN" - to shelter /
maintain a good mood.

The fierce and menacing appearance of the Nio is said to ward off evil spirits and keep the temple grounds free from demons and thieves. In some accounts, the Nio were said to have followed and protected the historical Buddha when he traveled throughout India. They have since been adopted by the Japanese into the Japanese Buddhist pantheon.

In Shinto shrines, the Nio guardians are replaced by a pair of koma-inu (Shishi lion-dogs) or by two foxes. These mythical and magical shrine guardians are commonly (but not always) depicted with similar iconography: one mouth open, one closed.

Meiji period 19th century

Sizes: 40 x 17 x 12 cm.

Condition report: Very Good condition