



Chinese Carnelian Agate Vase Brush Washer Qing Dynasty Antique Chinese Hardstone Carving 18th C



7 950 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Quelques manques

Material : Other

Width : 9.5 cm

Height : 7.8 cm

Depth : 5.5 cm

Description

A fine Chinese red carnelian agate 'tree trunk' vase or washer.

Qing dynasty, 18th-19th century.

Cleverly carved in relief as a section of a tree trunk, the exterior with gnarled leafy tree branches issuing peaches, flanked by two lingzhi and a bat flying in upward motion.

Symbolism:

Bat (fu ?), peach (tao ?), and fungus (lingzhi ??) combined make a rebus: "May your heart be filled with intelligence when blessings arrive" (fuzhi xinling ???). The saying literally means "May you be inspired when blessings arrive." In this instance, the peach has a cleft, giving it a heart-shaped (xin ?) appearance. Thus the peach

Dealer

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symbolizes a person's heart. The fungus (lingzhi ??) is a pun for "intelligence" (ling ?).

Note:

The heart symbolization is emphasized by the overall carving which, besides depicting a tree trunk, also closely resembles the human heart-shape, adding a different layer to the overall quality of the piece. The symbolism is especially expressed when held against the light (see photo 2 and 7) whereby the natural veining and inclusions of the stone become beautifully visible.

Ref:

Compare with other carvings bearing close resemblance, but of red and white agate:

National Palace Museum Taipei, image number
K1D000778N000000000PAB

The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York,
accession Number: 02.18.868

Sotheby's New York, 28 September 2021, lot 846

Christie's New York, 23-24 Mar 2023, lot 1284

Bonhams London, 23 September 2015, lot 269

Lit:

Bartholomew, Terese Tse - Hidden Meanings in
Chinese Art p. 26, nr. 1.1.16

Dimensions:

Height 7.8 cm, width 9.5 cm, depth 5.5 cm.

Condition:

A small chip to the base rim and one peach
broken off.

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Code: MW50