



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Japanese Screen, The Tale Of Genji, Japan Edo Period Early 19th Century

9 500 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 362

Height : 106

Depth : 2

Description

Screen The Tale of Genji, Japan Edo period early 19th century Painting on paper, mineral pigments and gold leaf, mounted as a 6-sheet screen. Silk brocade and lacquered wood borders, engraved brass protective fittings. This Edo period screen, dating from the early 19th century, depicts several scenes from The Tale of Genji, a major literary work written by Lady Murasaki in the early 11th century. This novel, often considered the first novel in history, narrates the life and loves of Hikaru Genji, prince of the imperial court. The central part of this screen is particularly remarkable. It illustrates chapter 24 of The Tale of Genji, in which young court girls, dressed as butterflies and kalavinka birds, dance under the cherry blossoms. The beauty of this scene is striking, showing not only the court

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figures but also the dancers and musicians. The kalavinka, a mythical bird whose melodious song is considered the voice of the Buddha, adds a spiritual dimension to this representation. The event described in this chapter is a formal ceremony of reading Buddhist sutras, sponsored by the Empress. This ceremony, reflecting the piety and support of Buddhism of the imperial court, underscores the importance of religious rituals in the aristocratic society of the Heian period (794-1185). Buddhist rituals were often integrated into court festivities, symbolizing both religious devotion and cultural refinement. The other scenes show more intimate scenes, such as the one on the right where women are busy washing a child in a lacquer basin. Historically, the Edo period (1603-1868) was marked by relative peace and economic prosperity that allowed for flourishing artistic development. Screens like this one are typical examples of the art of this period, combining aesthetic and narrative elements to capture the essence of classic literary works. 106 x 362 cm