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Rare Meiji Kutani Figural Group Of Gama Sennin And Disciple With Toad, Japan, C. 1880



1 000 EUR

Signature : Kutani

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Earthenware

Width : 22 cm

Height : 33 cm

Depth : 20 cm

Description

Rare Meiji period Kutani ware figural group of Gama Sennin and disciple with toad - Japan - c. 1880-1900A rare and striking Japanese figural group in Kutani ware (???), dating to the Meiji era (c. 1880-1900). The subject is Gama Sennin, the "Toad Immortal," a legendary Daoist figure symbolising longevity and mystical knowledge. He is depicted here with his disciple, who tenderly cradles a toad--an important creature in Japanese folklore associated with transformation and wisdom. The figures are executed in vibrant polychrome enamels over a warm, creamy earthenware body, highlighted with lavish gilded detailing and raised moriage decoration. This richly textured surface treatment, closely related to techniques seen in Satsuma-style art of the period, enhances the intricate floral and geometric

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patterns adorning their robes. Careful hand-painting extends to the expressive faces, showing remarkable sensitivity and characterisation. This is a high-quality export piece likely made in a major Kutani workshop such as Kokuzo-do or Iidaya, reflecting museum-level craftsmanship of the late 19th century. Key identifying features include: Unglazed, creamy clay base with hand-forming marks Red stamped mark "???" (Kutani) partially worn, typical for genuine Meiji-period works Realistic modelling of facial features, beards, hands, and toads Intricate, well-preserved enamel and gilded detail Typical of the finest Meiji export wares, this sculpture demonstrates the technical mastery of Kutani artisans in overglaze painting, moriage application, and gilding. Created for the international market at the height of the Meiji period, when Japanese porcelain, stoneware, and ceramic figures captivated Western collectors of exotic and mythological Asian art. Measurements: Height: 33 cm / 12.99" Width: 22 cm / 8.66" Depth: 20 cm / 7.87" Weight: 2640 g Condition: Beautifully preserved with excellent colour retention, finely detailed enamelling, and crisp moriage work throughout. Minor wear to the gilding, consistent with age. The fingers on the right hand of Gama Sennin have been professionally reattached, with the restoration discreet and not detracting from the overall visual impact and beauty of the piece. Shipping & Packaging Fully tracked and insured delivery. Shipping cost includes professional packaging, handling, and postage. Carefully packed using recycled materials. Customs paperwork provided where necessary for smooth international delivery. Please review all photos carefully, as they form part of the description, and feel free to ask any questions.