



Antique Kutani Porcelain Figure Of A Scholar Or Kabuki Character, Meiji-taisho Period, C 1880



500 EUR

Signature : Kutani

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Porcelain

Width : 17 cm

Height : 25 cm

Depth : 10 cm

Description

Antique Japanese Meiji-Taisho period Kutani porcelain figure of a scholar or kabuki character, moriage decoration, c. 1880s. A highly expressive antique Japanese Kutani porcelain figure, dating to the Meiji-Taisho period (c. 1880s-1910s), depicting a scholar or kabuki-style character. This finely modelled figure is captured mid-gesture, with vivid facial features, finely modelled hair, and an animated posture, typical of the dynamic artistry of Meiji-Taisho export ceramics from the Kaga region. The figure is richly adorned in a traditional robe decorated with chrysanthemums and stylised wave motifs, hand-painted in vibrant enamel colours and highlighted with raised moriage gilding. The red background of the robe is enhanced with scrolling patterns and peony blossoms, accented by fine gilt work. A patterned sash is tied around the waist, and the figure is shown in a dynamic, mid-gesture pose with hands held out. The figure has a beard and a expressive face. The overall condition is Parfait état.

Dealer

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Mobile : +44 7738009924

Buntingford SG9 0PY

sash wraps around the waist, and the figure stands in detailed traditional footwear. Executed with excellent craftsmanship, the expressive modelling and lively decoration reflect the high standards of Kutani ceramics intended for the Western market during this period. The underside is hollow, a technique commonly used in large porcelain figures to prevent stress during firing. The figure's right hand originally held a small object, likely a fan or scroll, which is now missing.

Historical Background: Kutani porcelain from the Kaga region flourished during the Meiji and Taisho periods, developing a distinct aesthetic marked by bold enamels, intricate morigae gilding, and dynamic subject matter. Exported widely, these pieces captured the Western fascination with exotic, finely worked Japanese ceramics. Figures representing scholars, sages, and actors were especially popular, embodying themes of wisdom, culture, and lively spirit.

Measurements: Height: 25 cm /

9.84" Width: 17 cm / 6.69" Depth: 10 cm /

3.94" Weight: 1241 g

Condition: Excellent overall presentation. The porcelain body is intact with no chips, cracks, or repairs. The fine hand-painted enamel decoration remains vibrant and detailed, with delicate raised gilding still visible. Some light surface wear to the gilding and enamels, consistent with age and handling. Light craquelure visible on unglazed areas, typical for porcelain of this period. The original handheld accessory (likely a fan or scroll) is now missing from the right hand, but this does not detract from the visual appeal or structural integrity 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.