



## A Shinto Katana From The Edo Period

3 700 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état



### Description

The elegance and mastery of the art of Japanese blacksmithing. This Shinto period (Edo era) katana illustrates the excellence of Japanese blacksmiths at a time when the craftsmanship and aesthetics of weapons reached new heights. With its 68 cm blade and richly decorated mount, this weapon symbolizes both the technical perfection and the artistic expression of feudal Japan. The Shinto period and the art of blacksmithing during the Edo period. The Edo period (1603-1868) corresponds to a period of relative peace under the Tokugawa shogunate. In this context, katanas ceased to be solely tools of war and became objects of prestige and refinement. The Shinto (new sword) period began in the 17th century and marked an evolution in forging techniques: blacksmiths drew inspiration from ancient

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traditions while introducing innovations, particularly in forging patterns and tempering lines. Shinto Katana: Period: early EDO  
Unsigned Blade: shinogi zukuri, iori mune  
Forging pattern: masame Tempering: suguha  
Fuze: ubu keitai, haagarinakagojiri, two mekugi ana. L 68 cm. Scabbard mounted in tachi, lacquer in imitation of wood, shibuichi mounts with imome patterns, menuki in the shape of a dragon.  
Characteristics of the blade: o Shinogi-zukuri: This classic blade shape, with a marked edge and an elegantly tapered point, is ideal for precise cuts and advanced martial techniques. o Iori-mune: The spine of the blade has a straight and angular line, reinforcing the sober and efficient aesthetic of the weapon. Forging and tempering pattern: o Masame pattern: The grain of the metal follows straight parallel lines, reminiscent of the rings of wood, a demanding style that highlights the finesse of the blacksmith's work. o Suguha tempering: The straight tempering line, simple and elegant, reflects the balance between sobriety and technical mastery. This aesthetic choice is typical of Shinto-era katanas, favoring a purity of form. Nakago (silk): o Ubu keitai: The tang is intact, without modification, preserving the authenticity of the blade. o Two mekugi ana: The two rivet holes testify to the prolonged use of the weapon, probably readjusted for different mounts over time. Tachi mount: Exceptional sophistication: Saya (scabbard): o Imitation wood lacquer gives the scabbard a natural and organic texture. This style of finishing highlights the aesthetic sensibility of Edo-era craftsmen. Shibuichi mounts: o The mounts, made of shibuichi (an alloy of silver and copper), feature delicate imome (young shoot) patterns. These symbols of renewal and growth evoke a connection with nature and the cycles of life. Menuki (handle ornaments): o The dragon-shaped menuki add a touch of power and mysticism to the weapon. In Japanese culture, the dragon is a symbol of strength, protection, and wisdom, reinforcing the spiritual dimension of

this katana. A katana at the crossroads of art and history: This Shinto-era katana is much more than a weapon: it is a masterpiece of craftsmanship, a historical piece, and a symbol of the refinement of the Edo era. Its understated yet sophisticated blade and richly ornamented mounts reflect a quest for excellence that goes beyond mere functionality.