



## Folding Samurai Armor 18th Century Edo Japan



30 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Wrought iron

### Description

Tatami do [folding armor] | Edo period, 18th century Kabuto [helmet]: Six-plate russet iron bowl with raised gilt copper ridges, terminating in a five-tiered tehen kanamono in the typical chrysanthemum shape, russet iron mabisashi, black lacquered fukigaeshi [returns] applied with copper tsuki-hana mon [moonflower crests], gilt copper fukurin [ornamental border], four-tiered black lacquer itamono-jikoro [solid plate neck guard] with close lacing in blue braid, the gilt and black lacquer maedate [fore-crest] in the shape of a hyotan [gourd] Hanbo [half mask]: The typically shaped russet iron hanbo with a pronounced jaw, a three-tiered lacquered sabiji-nuri [simulated russet iron] yodaregake [throat protector] with close-knit blue braid lacing DO [breastplate]: The do [breastplate] of collapsible iron with a chained

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panel hammered in uchidashi [repoussé] with a peony flower next to a pair of karashishi , other panels in the form of kikko [turtle shell] plates connected by chain mail and leather lacing, seven five-tiered dekusazuri [skirt] tassets with spaced lacing in dark blue braidKote [sleeves]:  
Shibuichihyotan-gote [sleeves with gourd ornaments, signed Haruta Katsumitsu , blue silk liningHaidate, sune-ate [thigh and shin protectors]: Chain mail thigh protectors, Shino SuneateAccessories: Sashimono [banner] in the shape of a double gourd, armor storage box in equipped woodThe \*gourd (?? - \*hyotan\* or \*hisago\*)\* in the iconography of \*samurai armor\* has a \*strong symbolism\* that is at once \*martial, religious and supernatural\*. Here are its main meanings: 1. \*Symbol of magical protection\* - In traditional Japanese beliefs, the gourd was supposed to \*repel evil spirits\*. - It was sometimes used as an \*amulet\* attached to the armor (often at the belt or helmet level), to \*protect the warrior in battle\*. - 2. \*Military and tactical symbol\* - The famous general \*Toyotomi Hideyoshi\* used a \*golden gourd (?? - kinbyo)\* as a \*military standard\*. - Its emblem, called \*"senari hyotan" (????)\*, represented \*six gourds\* in a cluster -- a sign of \*accumulated victories\*. - This usage made the gourd a \*symbol of military success and rallying\* for his troops. 3. \*Buddhist and Taoist symbol\* - In \*Taoism and esoteric Buddhism\*, the gourd is a sacred object: - It contains \*longevity potions\*, or \*imprisons harmful spirits\*. - The mythical monk \*Chochin Obake\* or the \*Chinese immortal hermits (?? - sennin)\* are often depicted with a gourd.