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 lacingDO [breastplate]: The do [breastplate] of collapsible iron with a chained

Dealer

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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.